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TAFT STRONG FOR POSTAL BANKS

Declares All Republicans Bound by Plank in Party Platform.

President Says Although No Socialist, This Government Has Reached the Stage Where It Must Be More Than Mere Police Force—Points to Success in Canada.

Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 18.—President Taft devoted his principal address in Milwaukee at the State Fair grounds, yesterday, to the subject of postal savings banks, which he strongly endorsed before a large and enthusiastic gathering that overflowed the grandstand. The president said that the postal savings bank plank in the Republican platform bound everybody who called himself a Republican.

"If they do not like a plank in a platform," said Mr. Taft, "or if they don't like the platform itself, they cease to be Republicans or they are Republicans with an exception, and that indicates a free and enlightened and discriminating people. But I am here to uphold the doctrine of postal savings banks because I believe they will fill a long-felt want in this country. In the first place it is said the postal savings bank is a very paternal institution; that it has a leaning toward Socialism—state Socialism—and that it purposes to take the banking business out of the hands of private persons and put it into those of the government. No, I am not a Socialist, and I am not a paternalist, and I am not in favor of having the government do anything that private citizens can do as well or better; but there are conditions. We have passed beyond the time of what they called the 'Laissez Faire' school, which believed that the government ought to do nothing but run the police force, and we do not recognize the necessity for the interference of the government because it has great power and great resources behind it, and because sometimes it can stand the lack of an immediate return on capital to help out. We did it in our Pacific railroads. We have done it in a great many different ways, and in this particular postal savings bank business the government is especially fitted to do what any system of private bankers can do.

"The great usefulness of the postal savings banks lies in the great encouragement to thrift on the part of those who are just wavering in the balance whether they shall save the money or use it because they don't know where they can put it safely.

"Canada has the postal savings bank, and what is the result along the border in the Northwest? You find Americans going up to the border and making deposits in those savings banks. Why? Because they have the guarantee of the Canadian government."

President Taft said the government had issued upward of \$700,000,000 2 per cent bonds of the United States and floated them at par, at 2 per cent or a little more.

"We did it by getting the banks into a corner so they had to have, under the law, some government security, and so they were obliged to buy those 2 per cent bonds," he said. In closing, President Taft said: "We are looking forward, I hope with confidence, to a readjustment of our whole financial system. Certainly it needs it, and it has been suggested that the savings bank might well await that. I am bound to say that I don't see the necessity for involving them. It seems to me that one system can stand by itself, and if we adopt the savings banks they will easily be worked into a general system of banking, because the savings banks will furnish us five or six hundred millions of dollars, and that is a very tidy pile to have around for the government to use legitimately in order to carry on any financial operations."

Old Kindness Rewarded.
Methuen, Mass., Sept. 18.—One of those strange legacies bobbed up in Methuen today when it became known that Mrs. George Bramer had received from attorneys in the Scilly islands the information that G. Ribstock, a man whom she and her mother befriended in Bermuda, had willed her about \$1,000,000 in railroad stocks and bonds. When Mrs. Bramer met Ribstock in Bermuda she then was unmarried, and with her mother did many little kindnesses for him in his old age. He was 80 years old at the time.

Germans On Water Wagon.
Berlin, Sept. 18.—A temperance campaign which promises to have a marked effect on the consumption of alcohol in Germany, has been begun as a result of a resolution adopted at the Socialist convention at Leipzig. The resolution requires that members of the party organization, which numbers 600,000, shall abstain from brandy and other high alcoholic beverages and shall try to diminish the consumption by their companions.

Harriman's Property Estimated.
New York, Sept. 18.—According to a Wall street publication, "it can be stated on the highest authority" that Mr. Harriman's property amounted to between \$75,000,000 and \$100,000,000.

JURY TAMPERING FOUND.

Chicago Investigations Promise Huge Scandal in County Affairs.

Chicago, Sept. 20.—A gigantic conspiracy for the "fixing" of grand juries of Cook county, extending back over a year and culminating in the fraudulent certification of names for the October grand jury, was revealed today, when State's Attorney Wayman secured bench warrants for John J. Holland, secretary of the Cook county jury commission; Jury Commissioner Willis J. Rayburn; and Nicholas A. Martin, Alderman Michael Kennas's secretary, on a charge of tampering with jurors.

The warrants were issued today by Judge Jesse A. Baldwin, of the circuit court.

The charge against the three is that they conspired to draw names of grand jurors in a manner other than that required by law.

Coming at the height of the trial of Inspector McCann for alleged grafting, the news of the action based on alleged tampering with the jury lists caused great excitement in legal and political circles. The complaints on which the warrants were issued were drawn up by a special agent of the state's attorney, who has been investigating the jury drawing methods for weeks.

Under the state law the names of prospective grand jurors are selected at random from a sealed box containing the names of 1500 citizens who have been examined for jury service by the jury commissioners and their fitness certified. A similar method is proscribed for petit jury lists.

NEW DUTIES HURT.

French Lace Manufacturers Hard Hit by American Tariff.

Paris, Sept. 20.—What France thinks of America's new tariff schedule is being evidenced in no uncertain fashion these days, and the attitude of French manufacturers generally is correctly expressed by lace and tulle-makers of Calais, which has thrived for generations on its filmy products, with the women of the United States its customers.

As a direct result of the 70 per cent tariff on laces and tulle, which the recently adopted tariff law of the United States has marked up on this class of manufactures, Calais is threatened with the loss of many inhabitants.

Former great prosperity of this city has dwindled almost to the vanishing point. Conditions have finally become so aggravated that long-established business men are abandoning their establishments and moving away from the city. Feeling runs high in Calais against employers.

AMERICAN SURGEONS LEAD.

Doctor Says Foolish to Go Abroad for Treatment.

New York, Sept. 20.—Dr. Lewis Livingston Seaman, one of the delegates to the recent international medical congress at Budapest, arrived on the steamer Campania from Liverpool, and spoke encouragingly on the showing made by America and the success of the congress.

"The Americans are far ahead of other nations in many branches of surgery and medicine," said Dr. Seaman, "as shown by the testimony and the exhibits at the congress. This is particularly true in the case of appendicitis, where we excel both in the treatment of the disease and the technique of the operation."

Speaking generally, Dr. Seaman said it was the height of insanity for Americans to go abroad for treatment by foreign specialists when there are physicians at home who could "walk all around" the European medical men.

Japanese May Soon Fly.

SHANGHAI, Sept. 20.—The interesting announcement is made that a society for aeronautic research has been formed in Japan, under the title of the Temporary Military Balloon Investigation Society. It is to consist of 20 members, selected from officers on the active list of the army and navy, and from men of science in general. The selection of the president and members will be made by the minister of war, with the approval of the cabinet. Nothing is definitely stated as to the provision of funds, but apparently the duty of financing the enterprise will devolve upon the departments of war and navy.

French Surgeon Studies Tuberculosis.

Marysville, Cal., Sept. 20.—Dr. Arnold De Falaise, a French surgeon, who is circling the globe on foot at the expense of the French government for the purpose of studying tuberculosis and to give advice to the victims of the disease, is in the city. He will leave today for San Francisco, and from there he will walk to Seattle. Dr. De Falaise was formerly a surgeon in the French army. In 1901 he left Paris, and since then has traversed all of Europe, and has toured Siberia, South America, Africa and North America.

Steamer Ohio to Junk.

Seattle, Sept. 20.—The sale of the wrecked steamer Ohio was brought down from Victoria on the Iroquois. It had previously been taken to Victoria by the Canadian salvage vessel Salvor, and it now rests at the Colman dock here. The safe and its contents were intact, and there was a large sum of money in it when opened. The figures given are \$167,000. The wreck of the Ohio itself will probably be broken up for junk.

Mexican Floods Raging.

Mexico City, Sept. 20.—A special dispatch from the town of Taxpan, near the port of Tampico, says: The river suddenly rose last night, and the western part of the city is inundated. The water is rising hourly. Reports from outlying ranches are most alarming. Water six feet deep is reported from some sections. Losses to stock and crops will be great.

PLANT BURNS AT LOSS OF \$425,000

Buildings of Portland Flouring Mills Company Swept Away.

T. B. Wilcox Announces Concern Will Rebuild Without Delay and on a Larger Scale—Insurance Amounts to \$325,000—Spontaneous Combustion Cause or Fire.

Portland, Sept. 16.—Spontaneous combustion and subsequent explosion of flour dust on the fourth floor of the local mill of the Portland Flouring Mills company, set fire to the plant at 8:40 o'clock yesterday morning and almost completely destroyed the machinery and buildings. The loss is estimated at about \$425,000 on machinery, structures and grain, with insurance amounting to \$325,000. The boiler room, main engine, warehouse and contents were saved.

Customers of the Portland Flouring Mills company will not suffer as a result of the disastrous conflagration of yesterday. Receipts of grain will not be lessened and business of the company will be handled as usual. In addition to the mill destroyed, the company operates 14 others, and it is the intention to divert a portion of the product of these mills to Portland for the purpose of protecting customers in this district. Oriental orders now on hand, and orders for shipment to California will be promptly filled.

Work of rebuilding the plant will begin as soon as possible. As soon as the insurance adjusters complete their work, the process of tearing down the wreck will commence. The new plant will be larger, and modern in every respect.

Two firemen were severely injured and a Japanese killed during the progress of the fire.

RUSSIA SENDS TROOPS.

Czar Is Massing Great Army in Siberian Territory.

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 16.—Russia is massing a great army in Siberia, four or five barracks are being built and extensive fortifications made and speculation as to a second war with Japan is a common topic of conversation among the Russian military men, said A. B. Denbigh, a Russian who returned from Siberia and Mongolia by the steamer Kaga Maru today.

"I was told that there were at least 500,000 troops in Siberia," said Mr. Denbigh. "Troops are quartered everywhere. The number of troops are from four to five times the number in Siberia before the war. At Vladivostok, before I left, there was a review of 55,000 troops and not one man was taken from the fortifications. I suppose at least as many more could have been prepared."

Denbigh brought news of a rich gold strike by Russians in Mongolia, about 50 or 60 miles distant from Kiska, the big walled city which has been for centuries one of the stopping places of the tea caravans from China.

PRESIDENT DIAZ AGED 79.

Mexican Ruler Celebrates—Workmen Move Him to Tears.

Mexico City, Sept. 16.—General Porfirio Diaz, president of Mexico, celebrated his 79th birthday anniversary yesterday. He received greetings from many foreign countries. The diplomatic corps and consular body were early at the palace. United States Ambassador Thompson and Consul General Drier, of Sweden, congratulated the president. Diaz, who is in splendid health, feelingly answered these salutations. A body of workmen expressed the hope that Diaz might yet rule Mexico for many years, and their enthusiasm moved the president to tears. President Diaz has occupied his office for 32 years. He has been renominated for the term commencing in 1910 and ending six years later.

Governor Johnson Serious.

Rochester, Minn., Sept. 16.—Governor John A. Johnson, who was operated on in St. Mary's hospital here yesterday for an intestinal abscess, was somewhat improved late last night and his physicians said that he would survive the night. Dr. C. F. McNevin, house physician, issued the following bulletin: "Governor Johnson has taken a turn for the better. His pulse is better, being down to 140. His abdominal pains have been relieved by vomiting and he has apparently passed the first crisis of the shock."

Eight Killed in Wreck.

Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 16.—As the result of a head-on collision between passenger train No. 4 and fast freight No. 51, on the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis railway, one mile west of Pegram station, Tenn., today, eight trainmen and mail clerks were killed, one seriously injured and a number of passengers reported more or less hurt. No passengers were killed. The cars caught fire and several of the victims were cremated.

Lovett Chairman of S. P.

New York, Sept. 16.—The board of directors of the Southern Pacific railway today elected Judge Robert S. Lovett chairman of the executive committee of the board. Jacob Schiff and William Rockefeller were elected members of the directorate and also members of the executive committee.

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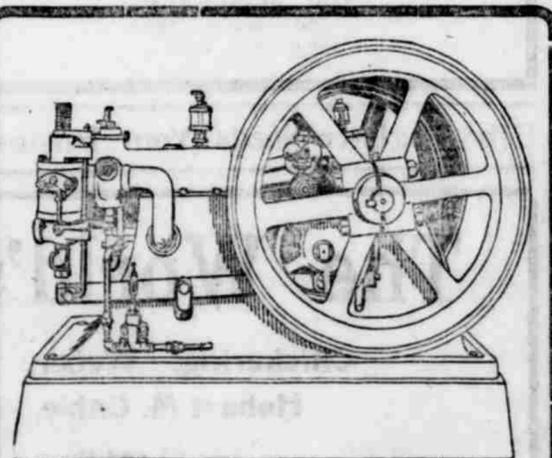
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