

TO GIVE UP PLUNDER

Harriman Coal Companies Offer Government Stolen Land.

PROPERTY IS WORTH MILLIONS

Asks Immunity in Return, but Only a Small Part of Stealings Is Offered.

Washington, April 4.—It was learned tonight that the Harriman corporations, whose ramifications extend to coal land and other vast interests in the Far West, are offering to restore to the government properties they have heretofore claimed as theirs by good and ample title. They prefer to do this rather than be prosecuted.

Coal land worth in the aggregate millions of dollars is to be restored to the public domain, as a result of the recent activities of the Interstate Commerce commission. The commission several months ago investigated the land frauds in Wyoming, Colorado and Utah. It was found that this whole section was honeycombed with corruption and its reports indicated that the general land office had been either hopelessly incompetent or worse in permitting the railroad companies and their allied corporations, the Union Pacific Coal company, the Utah Fuel company and the Colorado Fuel & Iron company to secure, by various and devious methods, control of great areas of the richest coal land in the West.

The Union Pacific Coal Company is a subsidiary corporation of the Union Pacific Railroad company. All the stock of the coal company, except qualifying shares for directors, is owned by the railroad company. The coal company secured control of a large amount of scrip and used it to secure entry of land, which was rich in the finest bituminous coal of the Wyoming field.

As it is the coal company is anxious to return the valuable land to the government and end the matter. But the matter will not be allowed to end there. While there is no possible defense to the title under which this scrip land has been claimed, this, though very valuable, constitutes only a small part of the coal land now held by the Union Pacific railroad, the Union Pacific Coal company, the Union Fuel company and other concerns.

JAPANESE SMUGGLED IN.

Hundreds Cross Border From Canada and Mexico.

Washington, March 4.—Information has reached the immigration bureau of the Department of Commerce and Labor that hundreds of Japanese have arrived in Mexico destined for the United States. Inspector Braun, who was sent to Mexico to investigate, telegraphed today that he had interviewed several hundred Japanese, principally laborers, who are now in Mexico. Many of them are in straitened circumstances. They have no intention of remaining in Mexico, but do desire to come to the United States. They expect to obtain employment on the railroads of the West and Southwest. Some of them have already applied for admission to the United States and have been denied.

WANTS TO REGAIN STRENGTH.

Russia Says Time Is Not Ripe for Limiting Armament.

St. Petersburg, April 4.—According to Professor De Marens, who was received in audience by Emperor Nicholas yesterday, Russia believes the time is not ripe for the discussion of the question of limitation of armaments, as practical results cannot be obtained, but if the United States and Great Britain are determined to bring the subject before the conference Russia is not inclined to insist on its exclusion.

In consequence of the unsuccessful war Russia's army and fleet are far below her normal strength and she is not willing to restrict her freedom of action in regaining her naval strength.

Four Jurors Are Accepted.

San Francisco, April 4.—Three of the first talesmen who will sit in the jury-box, subject to peremptory challenge, were passed by the prosecution and the defense as a result of the second day's proceedings in the trial of Abraham Ruef for extortion. One having been passed by both sides the first day, four talesmen have now been temporarily selected. When this number has been increased to twelve they will be subject to peremptory challenge, the defense having the right to excuse ten jurors and the prosecution five.

Detwiler Escapes in Auto.

Battle Creek, Mich., April 4.—A. K. Detwiler, of Toledo, indicted for bribery at San Francisco, was located in a private residence here this afternoon, but escaped arrest by leaving the house by a rear door and was whirled away in an automobile five minutes before the detectives called at the house to effect his arrest. It is thought Detwiler's destination was Belle Isle, 12 miles north of here, where he could reach catch a Grand Trunk train for Canada.

Rejects Bering Tunnel Scheme.

St. Petersburg, April 4.—The cabinet today rejected a proposal made on behalf of an American syndicate for the construction of a railroad tunnel under Bering straits, by which it was hoped ultimately to connect the Trans-Siberian with the Canadian Pacific railroad.

MAKE LAST PROPOSITION.

Mediators Still Hopeful of Preventing Big Railway Strike.

Chicago, April 3.—In a final effort to avert the impending railroad strike, Commissioners Knapp and Neill, the agents of President Roosevelt, will make a direct appeal to the full committee of conductors and trainmen today. The meeting will be held in the Sherman House, and the Federal mediators will lay before the 170 delegates the final proposition of the general managers. What that proposition is neither the commissioners nor the labor chiefs would disclose tonight, but it is understood to contain some minor concessions.

The decision of Messrs. Knapp and Neill to visit the meeting of the labor delegates and appeal to them direct was reported at a conference with the labor chiefs, which lasted until 11 o'clock last night. It was taken to indicate that the committee which has been conducting the negotiations refused to accept the terms of the managers and that it invited the Federal mediators to attend the meeting and find out in a direct manner what the delegates thought of the offer.

At the meeting today the entire matter will be put up to the delegates and it is believed that it will end the conference. The controversy will either be settled or the threatened strike, which has been suspended for several days while the negotiations were pending, will be declared. The prospects for an amicable settlement seem more remote.

Chiefs Morrissey and Garretson attended a meeting of the full committee and it was said they learned the temper of their men as to what concessions they would make in the interests of peace.

"Is the nine-hour day the real stumbling block in the way of peace?" was asked of Mr. Garretson.

"I am not at liberty to discuss the situation now," he replied, "but as a matter of fact there has not been a minute since the conference has begun that the nine-hour day was not the real stumbling block. The men are determined on that issue."

In the event of the negotiations being broken off and a strike resorted to, which is a strong probability, the real issue will be the nine-hour day.

DUNNE LOSES OUT.

Chicago Voters Turn Down Mayor for New Man.

Chicago, April 3.—The Republicans, headed by Frederick A. Busee for mayor, carried Chicago yesterday. Perhaps no one was more surprised at the result than the Republicans themselves. It marked the climax of the most mystifying and the filthiest campaign ever waged in the city.

Chicago will now speedily settle its streetcar problem, which has been huddled back and forth for 11 years as a political asset, the service growing more wretched and antiquated every year. Within 90 days the traction companies must accept the ordinances, rehabilitate the lines entirely, provide sufficient cars, abolish straps, repave the streets, sprinkle and keep the streets in order, build such extensions as the city shall order and turn over, as from February 1 of this year, 55 per cent of the net profits. The city may invest this sum against the time it will buy the lines for \$30,000,000 plus the amount spent, or it may be used to lower fares.

FRISCO IN DARKNESS.

Electric Light Plant Valued at Two and a Half Millions Destroyed.

San Francisco, April 3.—The destruction of the electric light and power house of the San Francisco Gas & Electric Light company at Twenty-second avenue South and Georgia street by fire last night plunged almost the entire city into darkness, resulted in the injuring of five firemen and causing a loss estimated at \$2,500,000.

Extra police were placed on duty at the temporary hall of justice and city prison at Eddy and Mason streets. Owing to the darkness, the buildings having no gas connections, no one was allowed to enter or leave the city prison and no prisoners were released on bail.

His Chauffeur Burns Spy.

San Francisco, April 3.—When Supervisor James G. Gallagher was dashing about San Francisco last winter in his red automobile, the quiet, unassuming young mahout at the wheel was none other than a disguised detective in the employ of William J. Burns. When Gallagher went to Ruef's office to get the boodle money, when he secretly sped to the home of Mayor Schmitz to arrange upon franchise programs, when he went to the bank to deposit his own share, this mahout was always with him in the automobile.

Montana Is Republican.

Helena, Mont., April 3.—Monday's municipal elections in Montana resulted in a Republican landslide, only two cities in the state electing Democratic mayors, while the opposition party was successful in all other instances. As a rule, party lines were closely drawn and a heavy vote polled. Great Falls and Lewiston elected straight Democratic tickets, while Billings, Bozeman, Livingston, Anaconda and Butte chose Republican mayors.

Vote on Saloons in Newbraska.

Omaha, April 3.—City elections were held in all cities and towns of Nebraska except Omaha, South Omaha and Lincoln. Probably three-quarters of the towns ignored party politics, voting only on the question of licensing saloons. In only a few towns were the existing conditions changed.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

BROWN STOPS HOSTILITIES.

American Diplomat Prevents Bombardment of Amapala.

Washington, April 5.—Mr. Cores, the Nicaraguan minister, called at the State department today and inquired what authority Phillip Brown, secretary of the American legation to Guatemala and Honduras, had for his interference with the bombardment of Amapala, Honduras, by the Nicaraguan forces.

Mr. Cores' advice from his home government show that Mr. Brown went to Amapala, persuaded the Nicaraguans to cease firing for 24 hours and then went to La Union, Salvador, whence he issued a protest, saying that Salvador would regard renewal of the bombardment as a declaration of war against Salvador. State department officials refuse to disclose what Mr. Brown's instructions have been.

President Bonilla is still surrounded at Amapala, so far as the State department knows, but the bombardment of the town by Nicaraguan gunboats has ceased.

ADVICE ON RAILROAD LAWS.

Stickney, Speyer and Whitridge, Offer President Suggestions.

Washington, April 5.—The president has received communications from A. R. Stickney, of the Chicago Great Western; James Speyer, of the banking firm of Speyer & Co., of New York, and Frederick Whitridge, a New York lawyer, all of them bearing on the railroad situation. Mr. Stickney made a number of suggestions which he thought might be of value to the president in any legislation he might desire to recommend to congress.

The president today replied to Mr. Stickney's letter and requested that he elaborate to some extent the points he had already brought out. Mr. Whitridge has been invited to come here to confer with the president and is expected here within the next few days.

Stop Hitchcock Methods.

Washington, April 2.—Secretary Garfield is slowly but systematically eliminating Hitchcock method from the administration of the Interior department. The most important reform now in contemplation is the elimination of the practice of besmirching the character of honest men. Hereafter inspecting officials will be held strictly accountable for their reports and whenever they attack the character or record of any man, they must make good or get out of the service. There has been altogether too much recklessness in late years, and it has got to stop. Garfield is as anxious as Hitchcock to punish grafters and land thieves but he will not tolerate recklessness.

Postal Agreement With Canada.

Washington, April 3.—At a conference between Postmaster General Lemieux, of Canada, and Postmaster General Meyer, of the United States, in this city today, an agreement was reached to amend the postal convention existing between the two countries insofar as it affects the transmission of newspapers and periodicals known as second class matter between the two countries. Canada accepts the tentative proposal of this country that second class matter mailed in one country and addressed to the other might be subject to a rate of 1 cent for each four ounces or fraction thereof on each bulk package, prepaid by stamps affixed.

Prosecute Poison Sellers.

Washington, April 4.—The department of Agriculture is making preparations to begin prosecutions under the pure food law and Dr. Wiley has given instructions to his inspectors to secure as soon as possible the samples on which the accusations will be based. The offending establishments have generally been located, and nothing remains except to obtain specimens of the articles. When these are procured charges will be formulated and supplied to the United States district attorneys in whose districts the offenders may reside.

Circulation on Increase.

Washington, April 3.—The monthly circulation statement shows that at the close of business March 30, 1907, the total circulation of National bank notes was \$597,212,063, and an increase for the month of \$869,041. The circulation based on United States bonds amounted to \$547,633,063, an increase for the year of \$35,411,512 and a decrease for the month of \$2,104,60. The circulation secured by lawful money aggregated \$49,579,000.

Believes Negroes Guiltless.

Washington, April 4.—Captain P. Lyon, of Company D, Twenty-fifth infantry, was the only witness examined today in the Brownsville investigation before the senate committee. His personal view that negro soldier did not do the shooting attracted much attention, as he said at first he was convinced of their guilt, but his opinion was changed by the report of experts who examined the shells picked up in the streets of Brownsville.

General Humphrey Reappointed.

Washington, April 4.—The president has reappointed Brigadier General Charles F. Humphrey as quartermaster general to succeed himself on the expiration of his present term.

New Lighthouse Engineer.

Washington, April 6.—M. J. Burke, of Oregon, was today appointed assistant engineer in the U. S. lighthouse service.

PLAN TO EXACT TRIBUTE.

Forestry Service Would Tax Pipelines of Right of Way.

Washington, April 2.—The Forestry service has submitted to the attorney general the question of the legality of the practice of so charging commercial companies for the right of conducting water through the reserves for the development of power and other purposes as to cause them to contribute to the expense of maintaining the reserves. The service has heretofore exacted payment for pipelines taking water from the streams in the reserves, but the right to do so has been questioned, and it is now the purpose to secure the attorney general's view of the point. The Forestry administration takes the position that the companies should pay something for the service they receive through the conservation of the waters of the streams on which they rely, and they find their only opportunity in the charge of the right of way.

Practically all the water used by them is conveyed through pipelines for the production of electricity and the demand is constantly increasing.

Express Company as Merchants.

Washington, April 3.—At the recent session of congress the senate adopted a resolution directing the Interstate Commerce commission to inquire into statements that the American, Adams, United States, Pacific and Wells Fargo Express companies, or either of them, are engaged through any agents in the business of buying, selling or handling on consignment fruits, vegetables and oysters entering into interstate commerce and to report the results of its investigation to the senate. Today the commission issued an order requiring the express companies named to file with the commission statements showing in detail to what extent, if any, they are engaged in the business indicated.

Accepts a New Post.

Washington, April 4.—George F. Pollock, the ex-assistant commissioner of the general land office, has accepted a position in the forest service. It is no secret among the members of the forest service that Mr. Pinchot has wished for some time to secure for his own bureau the advantage of Mr. Pollock's intimate familiarity with public land questions. A new position has now been created which will put him in charge of all matters relating to public lands in forest reserves, claims, privileges, eliminations, etc.

Swift Loses Promotion.

Washington, April 4.—Captain William Swift, who was in command of the battleship Connecticut when it grounded near Culebra on January 13, was found guilty of inattention and neglect of duty by the courtmartial which tried him at Norfolk. The Navy department reviewed the sentence, and today it was announced that Captain Swift will be suspended from duty for nine months and will lose three numbers.

Land Restored to Entry.

Washington, April 6.—Forester Pinchot today recommended the restoration to entry of 359,000 acres of land that has been temporarily withdrawn adjacent to the Cascade forest reserve, but which was not added to that reserve prior to March 4 last. The land becomes subject to settlement immediately and becomes subject to entry after 90 days. Under the act of last session this land could not be permanently reserved except by act of congress.

Invitation Reaches Rosen.

Washington, April 5.—Baron Rosen, the Russian ambassador, called upon Secretary Root at the State department today and informed him he had received from St. Petersburg the invitation to the United States, to attend the second Hague conference. The invitation was in French and it was necessary to make a translation before it could be handed to Mr. Root officially.

Consulship Given Manning.

Washington, April 6.—Isaac A. Manning, of Portland, was today appointed consul to Cartagena, Colombia. Mr. Manning recently took the consular examination for which he was designated by the president at the request of Senator Fulton in John Barrett. Since his examination he has been strongly endorsed by Senator Bourne for early appointment.

Dayton Commans Asiatic Fleet.

Washington, April 3.—Rear Admiral James A. Dayton, heretofore in command of the Philippine squadron, today assumed command of the Asiatic fleet as the relief of Rear Admiral Brownson, who has been ordered to this city to relieve Rear Admiral Converse, retired, as chief of the bureau of navigation.

Contract for Life-Saving Tug.

Washington, April 6.—The contract for constructing Neah Bay (Washington) lifesaving tug will be awarded to Pusey & Jones, of Wilmington, Del., their bid being \$189,057. No Pacific coast firms submitted bids.

New Washington Postmasters.

Washington, April 6.—Washington postmasters appointed: Waterloo, Walter A. Park, vice H. Thew, resigned; Gibson, Thomas Willis, vice Guy Waring, resigned.

CHILE WAS AIMING HIGH.

South American Republic Wanted Ambassador at Washington.

Washington, April 2.—Chile's failure to send a minister to Washington to replace Mr. Walker Martinez, who did not return here after the Pan-American conference at Rio Janeiro last summer, has caused much comment. The neglect of the Chilean congress to appropriate sufficient money to maintain the legation has been given as a reason for leaving the American mission in charge of Alberto Yocham, secretary of the legation.

But it has just become known that the real cause was hidden deep in Latin-American politics. Chile decided it would be a good idea to have an ambassador in Washington, and steps were taken to discover what the United States thought of the proposed elevation of the Chilean representative to Washington.

The suggestion that the Chilean envoy might be raised to the ambassadorial rank set all Latin America on edge and a general movement was instituted by the Southern republics to head off such a movement. Argentina being unfriendly to Chile was especially opposed to the plan, as Brazil and Chile are always rated as allies and Argentina did not want her two strongest rivals to outstrip her in American representation.

It has not been the policy of the State department to send ambassadors to any country which can not be ranked as a world power, and when the hostility of the rest of South America to such a change became known the United States decided that the question had better not be agitated further at this time.

ONLY SPECIAL RATES GO UP.

President of Western Union Explains Recent Advance in Toll.

New York, April 2.—Concerning the recently announced advance in the rates charged by the company, Colonel R. C. Clowry, president of the Western Union Telegraph company, tonight said:

"There has been no large increase in rates by the telegraph companies. A number of special and unprofitable rates have been increased to the standard of schedule rates. These special rates were discriminative against a large number of places and were originally established by competing companies, which by reason thereof went into bankruptcy.

"Most of the rates increased were 25 cents for 10 words rates. It costs at least 30 cents each to handle such messages for short distances at the present time. The increases in the cost of telegraph material have been from 25 to 100 per cent within the last few years. In addition to the recent increases of 10 per cent in the salaries of all managers and operators, there has been for years past a large and steady increase in wages of all classes of individual employes from month to month.

"There is no increase in the extra word rate, consequently the newspapers' rates remain the same."

ALMOST GOT PRESIDENCY.

Grow, Former Pennsylvania Congressman Dies of Old Age.

Binghamton, N. Y., April 2.—Ex-Congressman Galusha A. Grow died at his home in Glenwood, Pa., Saturday as a result of a general breakdown, attributed to old age. Mr. Grow was elected to congress from the Wilmot district of Pennsylvania as the youngest member of that body in 1851, and after retirement from public life for nearly 40 years he re-entered the house of representatives as congressman at large from Pennsylvania.

When he retired four years ago his public service in the house extended over the longest period, although not continuous service, of any man who ever sat in that body. During the ante-bellum days he was one of the best known men in the United States, and in 1864 he came within one vote of being nominated for vice president in place of Andrew Johnson.

Disorders Have Ceased.

Bucharest, April 2.—It is semi-officially stated that in many districts the peasants are repairing the damage done to property and restoring stolen goods to their owners. Disturbances are reported from Putna in Moldavia, and many cases of plunder, incendiarism and armed conflict in Walachia. A number of peasants have been killed or wounded by troops at Langa and Patulele. At Galicea, in the center of the disturbed area, all the ringleaders have been captured. The communes of Huerzani and Pengeni are in revolt.

If Less Pay, Will Strike.

Wheeling, W. Va., April 2.—Telegraph operators in West Virginia threaten to strike if their wages are reduced when the new eight-hour law, enacted by the recent legislature, goes into effect. The railroad companies have given notice that there will be a proportionate reduction in wages as soon as the act takes effect, May 9. At a meeting today operators representing every division in West Virginia adopted resolutions to accept no reduction.

Suppress News in Russia.

St. Petersburg, April 2.—Premier Stolypin has sent a circular to the governors of provinces ordering them to prohibit the printing of news of the agrarian disorders in Roumania, in the fear that they might spread to Russia.

AFTER RAILWAY NOW

Grand Jury Investigating Mammoth Bribe in Bay City.

\$450,000 WENT TO GRAFTERS

After Months of Delay Arrangements Are Completed for Trial of Boss Ruef.

San Francisco, April 2.—A new link has been added to the chain of evidence which connects the United Railroads with the local bribery deals. It is the most important link and comes from a source within the company. The grand jury will soon return indictments in connection with this mammoth bribery by which the sum of \$450,000 was divided among Mayor Schmitz, Abe Ruef and the supervisors.

While no definite statement has been forthcoming as to the men slated for indictment, this much is certain—the prosecution will direct its fire to three branches of the corporation. These branches are the control, represented by Patrick Calhoun, the president of the company; the active management, represented by Thornwell Mullally, and the law department, at the head of which is Tiley L. Ford. The next week will determine where the blame is to be placed. It may be distributed among all three branches.

The grand jury today set up George Hatton, former political manager for Senator Perkins and more recently on the political staff of the Southern Pacific, for its special mark. It was brought out that Hatton had been attorney for the Home Telephone company before it bought its way into San Francisco. It transpires that Congressman Julius Kahn was also attorney for the company during the early stages of its fight to enter the San Francisco field.

When the trial of Abe Ruef on a charge of extortion is called today in Judge Dunne's court, prosecution and defense will alike answer "ready." The last of the many postponements and interferences which have caused the preliminaries to drag out over several months, are at an end.

DISSOLVE UNION OF ROADS.

Final Stage is Reached in Matter of Harriman Lines.

Chicago, April 2.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Washington says: The final stage in the investigation of the Harriman situation will begin on Thursday next, when the Interstate Commerce commission will hear its own counsel and that of involved railroads in explanation of points brought out in the testimony taken.

Following arguments the commission will refer all testimony to the attorney general, with a view to the institution of legal proceedings for a dissolution of the combination existing among the Union Pacific, Oregon Short Line, Southern Pacific and allied lines which have been found to be competing, and will prepare a report for the information of the president wherein will be set forth steps which the investigation shows will improve the transportation facilities generally and legislation necessary to insure more satisfactory Federal regulation.

Hermann Has Inning.

Washington, April 2.—Numerous witnesses for the defense were placed on the stand today to impeach the testimony brought out by the prosecution during the past seven weeks of the Hermann trial. Their statements, while contradicting considerable testimony offered by government witnesses, had no direct bearing on the principal points at issue, though their denials had the effect of weakening the prosecution.

Henry Meldrum, during his examination, testified that he called to see Hermann at the request of H. P. Gately, son-in-law and associate counsel of the defendant.

Bulgarians on Warpath.

Belgrade, April 2.—It is reported here that a band of Bulgarians has attacked the old Servian towns of Rudni and Tolochea, burning 31 houses, killing seven men and maiming a number of women and children. Increasing bitterness is being displayed here toward the Bulgarians, owing to the belief that, while the powers have called the attention of the governments of Servia and Greece to the atrocities perpetrated by Servian and Greek bands, they have made no protest against the actions of Bulgarian bands.

Chance to Earn Monument.

Ottawa, Ont., April 2.—James Bryce, British ambassador to the United States, was the guest of honor at the Canadian club banquet tonight. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that Mr. Bryce was the first British ambassador at Washington to visit Canada. "If Mr. Bryce," continued the premier, "is able to turn a new leaf in regard to Canada's relations with the United States, I will propose for him a monument on Parliament hill."

Hospital on Mount Olivet.

Jerusalem, April 2.—The foundation stone of the new German hospital upon the Mount of Olives, was laid Sunday in the presence of the governor of Jerusalem, the other local officials and many spectators, to the accompaniment of cheers or Emperor William and for the sultan of Turkey, who gave the land and authorized the construction of the hospital.