

RUEF PLEADS GUILTY

Fallen San Francisco Boss Throws Himself on Mercy of Court.

WAS SURPRISE TO PROSECUTION

Still Declares Himself Innocent of Charge, but Changed Plea for Sake of Family.

San Francisco, May 16.—Abraham Ruef, better known as Abe Ruef, the acknowledged adviser of Mayor Schmitt, and once the recognized dictator of municipal affairs in this city, pleaded guilty to the charge of extortion in Judge Dunne's department of the Superior court yesterday afternoon. Sentence will be pronounced upon him two weeks hence.

After a private conference with his four attorneys in Judge Dunne's chambers and after they had withdrawn from his case because of the resolution he had taken to change his plea and avoid trial, Ruef, to the utter astonishment of the prosecution, arose in court and announced in a dramatic address that after long and earnest consideration he had determined to withdraw his plea of not guilty and enter a plea of guilty. He asked that the jury be dismissed and the trial abandoned.

Ruef read his statement from manuscript which he had prepared in the presence of his attorneys a few moments before Judge Dunne's chambers opened. He showed in his voice, in the expression of his face, in his quiet and restful attitude and by the tears that again and again overflowed his eyes, the great emotion and the utter humiliation he suffered. The pathos of the scene was communicated to the crowd that thronged the courtroom.

Through Abraham Ruef has formally declared himself to be guilty of the charge on which he was about to be tried, he nevertheless proclaims his innocence. He confesses that he is guilty of having connived at the corruption in municipal affairs, but he denies with all the emphasis a man in his unhappy position can command that he is guilty of the crime of extortion charged against him. He declares that his sole motive in accusing himself in open court was to save the lives of those who are nearest and dearest to him, his aged father and mother, his maiden sister and a niece.

CANNOT BELIEVE ORCHARD.

Possible Jurors in Haywood Case Reveal New Prejudice.

Boise, Idaho, May 16.—The unexpected uncovering of a vein of prejudice against Harry Orchard and his testimony during the further examination of talesmen in the Steunenberg murder case yesterday led to the first sharp wrangle between counsel and involved the name of President Roosevelt in an acrimonious discussion.

The jury box was finally filled with 12 talesmen subjected to examination and temporarily passed by both sides at 3:40 o'clock in the afternoon and the court announced that it was in order for both sides to exercise peremptory challenges. Counsel for Haywood asked for a few moments' delay and for five minutes they gathered around the chair of the prisoner and engaged in earnest consultation as to their course on the men occupying the jury box.

The state exercised its right first and excused William Van Orsdale, a grocer, who has occupied seat No. 2 since the opening day of the trial. George F. Maw, a young farmer with some strong objections to the acts of certain elements in the labor unions of the country, was then called to the vacant place. The state passed him and he was still in the hands of the defense when adjournment hour was reached.

The trial will not be resumed until 2 o'clock this afternoon.

CARRY OWN STEVEDORES.

New York, May 16.—Today 100 men from New England were put to work on South Brooklyn piers. The Prince Eitel Frederick arrived from Kingston with 50 negroes, who had been added to the crew, that they might do the work of the stevedores. The scheduled sailing of steamers will be made on time, and, according to the steamship officials, with nearly full cargoes. The steamship companies declare they are moving ships with the aid of nonunion men. The strikers say there is no wavering in their ranks.

PROBING DENVER LAND FRAUD.

Denver, May 16.—The special Federal grand jury, the first to be held in Denver in many years, called to probe into coal and timber land frauds, convened here today. The work will be in charge of Ernest Knaebel, special assistant to the attorney general, who has devoted most of his time of the last year to land investigations, and Ralph Hartzell, acting United States district attorney. A dozen witnesses from St. Louis and Milwaukee arrived today.

DRUMHEAD COURT MARTIAL RETAINED.

St. Petersburg, May 16.—The council of the empire rejected the bill which was passed April 30 by the lower house abolishing trials by drumhead court martial.

THOUSANDS POURING IN.

No Check to Steady Stream of Immigration to United States.

New York, May 14.—The flooding tide of immigration to American shores runs ceaselessly on, and new high water marks for the influx of Europe's migratory hordes are being recorded every month in the port of New York.

Already May bids fair to outstrip the April record, when 133,452 immigrants poured through the gateway of New York into the country. Five trans-Atlantic liners brought in over 5,000 yesterday and officials at Ellis island say that there are no signs of cessation of this European invasion.

The well spring of this human stream lies principally in Southern and Middle Europe, while another but lesser current has its source in the Scandinavian and German states. Italy, Austria-Hungary and the Lower Russians now supply more than one half of all the immigrants seeking homes in this country. Every fourth alien examined at Ellis island is Italian, while every fifth newcomer is from the Austrians.

A score of years ago the headwaters of foreign immigration were in Ireland and Germany. But now the source has entirely changed. The industrial fields of the United States still absorb the greater part of the foreign output, and several states—Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio—find homes for 70 per cent of the total number.

NINETY DIE IN MINE.

Cigarette Smoker Starts Blaze in Vacant Mexican Shaft.

City of Mexico, May 14.—Ninety men are supposed to have lost their lives in a fire which started in the Tenares copper mine at Valderana, in the state of Durango, last Friday night. The fire is still raging, and is said to be beyond control.

Thirty-five bodies have been recovered up to this time. Seventeen miners are known to have escaped. This information has been conveyed in a dispatch to the Associated Press offices in Mexico City. The burning mine belongs to the Guggenheims.

The origin of the fire is supposed to have been due to the carelessness of a miner, who was smoking a cigarette in an abandoned shaft. The fire had gained great headway before it was discovered by the men in the near vicinity. They found that all avenues of escape to the surface had been cut off. Seventeen, however, were in a good position, and made a dash and reached the outer air.

Rescuing parties have been working heroically, but only charred and unrecognizable remains have thus far rewarded their efforts.

EXPLODE SUNKEN MINE.

Japanese Steamer Brings News of Bad Disaster.

Victoria, B. C., May 14.—Advices were received by the steamer Riojun Maru from Yokohama that as a result of the recent increases in duty on matting entering the United States, the guild which controlled the bulk of exports of Japanese matting has been broken up.

News of the destruction of a Japanese boat with the loss of 13 lives as a result of the explosion of a derelict mine off Toyama was brought by the Riojun Maru. The fishermen mistook the mine for an oil drum and were trying to pick it up when it exploded.

The Riojun Maru reports that tea shipments to the United States to commence on the next inward steamer will be larger this year than during any previous season.

Big Legal Fight Is On.

Denver, Colo., May 14.—Last week the attorneys for the defendants in the case of officers of the Lost-Bullion Spanish Mine company, charged by the Postoffice department with using the mails to defraud, entered a demurrer to the indictment before United States District Judge R. E. Lewis. Arguments were made by the attorneys of both sides and Judge Lewis is expected to give his decision early this week on the demurrer. This is the first gun in what promises to be a hard fought legal battle to show whether or not the defendants told the truth in the glowing prospectus which they sent broadcast through the mails.

Selfish Policy in Korea.

Victoria, B. C., May 14.—The steamer Yangtze, which arrived from Yokohama, brings news that Marquis Ito, resident general in Korea, in a recent speech at Seoul, rebuked the selfish policy of Japan in the Hermit kingdom. He said no policy that was entirely selfish was never successful, and urged Japan to further the interests of other countries in Korea as well as her own. News was also received that China is about to send a number of military cadets from North China to the French military school at St. Cyr for training.

Hope to Avoid Strike.

Denver, May 14.—It is stated authoritatively that the failure of Interstate Commissioner Knapp and United States Labor Commissioner Neill to settle the differences existing between the Denver & Rio Grande railroad and its trainmen, and their departure for Washington yesterday, will not result in an immediate strike of the trainmen. They are expected to have another conference with the railroad officials tomorrow.

Five Killed by Blast.

Ruston, La., May 14.—Some unknown persons set off a charge of some high explosive here under the house of Samuel Cook, a negro, early today, blowing the house to pieces and killing Cook and four other negroes sleeping in a front room.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

UNIVERSITY GETS MONEY.

Supreme Court Settles the Wyoming Wrangle Over Funds.

Washington, May 15.—The Supreme court of the United States today decided the controversy between the Wyoming Agricultural college and the University of Wyoming as to which of the institutions is entitled to the national government funds contributed to the state for the support of an agricultural college, in favor of the university, affirming the verdict of the Wyoming Supreme court.

The case was instituted by the Agricultural college, located at Lander, which set up a claim for \$25,000 paid by the national government for the year 1905. The state Supreme court decided in favor of the university, which is located at Laramie, and which maintains an agricultural department under state sanction, holding that the funds should continue to go to that institution until further legislation on the subject. The opinion was by Justice Moody, who held that the government grants are to the state and not to any particular institution.

Malcontents Gain Points.

Washington, May 16.—Governor Franz, of Oklahoma, and the delegation from that state, who are in Washington to confer with Chairman Sherman and members of the Republican congressional committee regarding the constitution adopted for the state of Oklahoma, have received a telegram announcing an appeal from the permanent injunction granted by Judge Pencock at Alva, Okla. in the Woods county case, restraining the county officers from calling an election prior to November, 1908.

Timber in Public Domain.

Washington, May 16.—Lands heretofore withdrawn from entry by order of the president for forest reservation purposes have been restored to the public domain as follows: 998,560 acres in the Rainier and 256,000 acres in the Washington forest, Washington; 355,840 acres in the Cascade forest and 132,000 acres in the Heppner forest, Oregon; 244,980 acres in the Medicine Bow forest, Wyoming.

Eight Hour Law Held.

Washington, May 15.—Justice Holmes, of the Supreme court of the United States, today announced a decision in seven cases, involving the construction of the law of 1892, by which the employment of laborers and mechanics on public works is limited to eight hours per day. The defendants were all prosecuted criminally and were all found guilty and fined by the trial court. The law was held not applicable to dredgers.

Warships Stay in Position.

Washington, May 17.—That the American warships now in Central American waters will be retained there for some time was indicated at the State department today. The Marietta is at Puerto Cortes, the Paducah at Point Barrios and the Yorktown is taking Minister Merry from Costa Rica to Acapulco.

Again Probing Brownsville Affray.

Washington, May 16.—The investigation by the senate committee on military affairs of the Brownsville shooting affray, was resumed today. It is expected that testimony will be offered against the negro discharged soldiers. Heretofore the testimony has been mostly in favor of the negroes.

Northwest Postal Affairs.

Washington, May 14.—Claude E. Hathaway has been appointed regular, Clarence Hathaway substitute, rural carrier, route 4, at Cheney, Wash. Oregon postmasters appointed: Bly, Ada Erb, vice W. F. Reed, resigned; Celilo, Ulric C. Dodge, vice I. H. Taffer, resigned.

Successor to A. C. Edwards.

Washington, May 15.—Arthur E. McPartridge, superintendent of the Winnemago Indian school, has been appointed agent at Umatilla, Or., to succeed Major O. C. Edwards, whose resignation has been accepted. He is expected to take charge at once.

Northwest Postal Affairs.

Washington, May 16.—Clarence E. Gay, has been appointed regular, Lizzie Gay, substitute, rural free delivery carrier, route 8, at Spokane, Wash. Herman J. Grand has been appointed postmaster at Johnson, Wash., vice L. S. Greer, resigned.

Special Delivery Stamp Not Needed.

Washington, May 16.—No special delivery postage stamps will be needed after July 1 to insure the immediate delivery of a letter. The affixing of 10 cents extra postage and marking the covering "Special Delivery" will suffice.

Consul Manning Prepares to Sail.

Washington, May 14.—I. N. Manning, of Portland, recently appointed consul to Cartagena, is here receiving instructions from the State department prior to his departure for his post. His wife and daughter accompany him.

Cannot Enforce Higher Rates.

Washington, May 16.—The Interstate Commerce commission today decided that where two rates between the same points are in force, the shipper must be given the benefit of the lower.

ROOSEVELT MUST DECIDE.

Interstate Commission Disagrees in Harriman Case.

Washington, May 18.—The question of bringing criminal prosecution against E. H. Harriman and suits to dissolve the railroad combinations he has effected must be decided by President Roosevelt. This is a matter in which no subordinate will meddle. The president must figure out his own deductions and assume full responsibility for the consequences.

The Interstate Commerce commission is divided into factions. One believes that successful suits can be maintained to break the Harriman combinations under the Sherman anti-trust act, which might permit subsequent criminal prosecution of Harriman. The other is convinced that legal proceedings for the dissolution of the combinations would prove an ignoble failure.

Commissioner Coming West.

Washington, May 15.—It is learned that Indian Commissioner Francis E. Leupp, who is soon to make a trip to the Northwest, will visit Pendleton and the Umatilla reservation and will make an investigation of conditions at the headquarters of the agency and look into the charges that have been made against Superintendent O. C. Edwards, which were made several months ago. This is taken to mean that the Indian department is not entirely satisfied with the investigation made some time since by Inspector Davis, who was sent there for that purpose.

Immigration Commission to Sail.

Washington, May 17.—When the steamer Canopic sails from Boston on Saturday next for Naples, it will have on board members of the Immigration commission authorized at the last session of congress to make an extensive study of every phase of the immigration question in this country and abroad and to report its findings to congress. While a part of the commission will go abroad, some of the members will remain in this country to study the question. The commission will return by way of Liverpool upon the steamer Cedric August 29.

Portland Needs It Badly.

Washington, May 14.—In response to an inquiry from Senator Bourne, District Attorney Bristol states that there is great need for the establishment of a naturalization bureau at Portland, if the department is to adopt the policy outlined a few days ago looking to the elimination of naturalization and election frauds. Mr. Bourne will put the matter to the attorney general and strongly urge the establishment of such a bureau at Portland, if the department decides to carry out the plan now in hand.

Taft's Brother Visits President.

Washington, May 14.—Henry W. Taft, of New York, a brother of the secretary of war, talked with the president today about the prospective vacancy on the bench of the United States Circuit court for the Second district to be caused by the retirement of Judge Wallace. Mr. Taft went also to the War department to see his brother and later returned to the White House with the secretary, remaining there for some time discussing political matters. Mr. Taft declined to say anything for publication.

Great Area Open To Entry.

Washington, May 16.—On July 27 there will become subject to settlement, but not to entry filing or selection until August 26, about 355,840 acres within Portland, Lakeview, The Dalles and Roseburg land districts, Oregon, and surrounding the Cascade national forest reserve temporarily withdrawn as a proposed addition to that forest reserve about 132,920 acres withdrawn for proposed addition to the Heppner forest national within the La Grande and The Dalles land districts will become subject to settlement, entry filing or selections.

Grant Veterans Hold Reunion.

Washington, May 17.—An interesting feature of the next Republican National convention will be a reunion of the delegates to the national convention in Chicago in 1880 who for 36 ballots supported General U. S. Grant for the presidency for a third term. The call for the reunion has been issued by Colonel A. M. Hughes, of Columbia, Tenn., the only surviving member of the Tennessee delegation to that convention.

Green Bug Yield to Enemy.

Washington, May 16.—It was announced by the Agricultural department today that the "green bug," which has done so much damage to wheat and other small grain in Texas and Oklahoma, and in a few of the southern counties of Kansas, already is practically exterminated by its natural parasite, a very minute black fly. It caused great damage in 1890 and again in 1900 and a third outbreak is now coming to a close.

Barrett to Break Ground.

Washington, May 16.—The president today requested John Barrett to act as his representative at the ceremony attending the breaking of ground at Seattle on June 1. Mr. Barrett has the matter under advisement.

Northwest Postal Affairs.

Washington, May 17.—William H. Thomas has been appointed regular, Eliza M. Thomas substitute, rural free delivery carrier, route 2, at Bow, Wash.

THIRTY-TWO ARE DEAD.

Special Train Carrying Mystic Shriners Wrecked in California.

Santa Barbara, Cal., May 13.—While hurrying northward over the Coast line of the Southern Pacific railroad Saturday afternoon, homeward bound, after a week of fraternizing and feasts in Los Angeles, 145 Shriners of Ishmael temple, of Buffalo, and Rajah temple, of Reading, Pa., with their families and friends were hurled into the midst of death when their special train, running 50 miles an hour struck a defective switch at Honda, a lonely station on the sand wastes of the Pacific beach, derailing the train, smashing the coaches into splinters, killing 32 almost instantly and injuring more than a score of others. The bodies of 21 lie in the morgues of Santa Barbara and 10 more are at San Luis Obispo. The injured, many of whom are terribly hurt and will probably die, are in two sanitariums at San Luis Obispo.

There was no warning of the impending calamity. The special plunged upon the defective switch, and in an instant the big locomotive, baggage car, diner and Pullman, coupled with it, were hurled together in a heap of wreckage. The engine shot forward on the broken track, tearing up the rails and ties and twisting the huge iron spans into fishhooks. The baggage car half buried itself in the sand on the right side of the locomotive. It was smashed almost to kindling wood.

The dining car, in which were 32 people eating their noonday repast, leaped into the air and was thrown directly on top of the demolished locomotive. Nearly every person in this coach was instantly killed. Scores were scalded by steam escaping from disconnected pipes in the kitchen of the diner. The terror and turmoil of the scene were indescribable. Many of those escaped instant death by the first impact were crushed by the rear coaches hurled upon the wreckage. Others, pinioned in the debris, were roasted alive. The wreckage caught fire from the coals of the engine, but was extinguished in a few minutes by the passengers who escaped injury.

EXPECTED MANY SENSATIONS.

Eastern Newspaper Men Disgusted to Find Boise an Orderly Town.

Boise, May 13.—Considerable disgust is expressed by some of the newspaper men who have come from distant points. They appear to have thought they were coming to an armed camp, where sensations were likely to be constant, and they have been both surprised and disappointed to find a community as quiet as one in New England, and so perfectly composed that no one uninformed would suspect anything of great importance was going on here. Some of them have asked to be recalled, and expect to leave after the jury is empaneled.

Sheriff Hodgins has gathered up 75 jurymen in the country districts and will fill out the panel in town. He keeps the names to himself closely, and nothing is known about the men he has summoned.

Venezuela Paying Off Debts.

Washington, May 13.—The State department has received a dispatch from Minister Russell, at Caracas, Venezuela, stating that the payment to the allied powers, Germany, Great Britain and Italy, agreed upon under the blockade several years ago, will be completed about July 1. After that date the only payments will be on account of the exchanges in the currency of the countries. The deferred claimants, the United States, Mexico, The Netherlands, Sweden and Belgium, will then come in for settlement. Monthly payments will be made to those countries from the customs receipts of Venezuela.

Volcanoes Are More Active.

Messina, Sicily, May 13.—New craters have opened up in Mount Aetna and Stromboli, whose eruptions are increasing. The observatories of Messina and Catania continue to register earth shocks. The alarm of the population of this island is growing, especially around Mount Aetna. A portion of the main crater of Stromboli has fallen in. It seems to have affected the sea, which is much agitated near the island. Scientists have expressed the opinion that possibly a submarine crater may have opened.

Disaster in New Mexico.

El Paso, Tex., May 13.—Word has just been received here that the west-bound passenger train No. 7 on the Southern Pacific, which left here at 5:45 yesterday afternoon, has been wrecked at Lordsburg, N. M. Five people are said to have been killed and many injured. Particulars have not yet been received. A wrecking train with several surgeons left here for the scene of the wreck. Lordsburg is the terminus of the first division of the Southern Pacific west of El Paso.

Kansas Enforces Corporation Law.

Topeka, Kan., May 13.—Writs of outlawry were issued against the Western Union Telegraph company and the Pullman company here today by the Supreme court of Kansas, for not complying with the Kansas corporation laws. The court requires that the two companies must pay the charter fees required by the state before they can continue to do business in Kansas. It is expected that both companies will appeal.

Want Tariff Deal With France.

Paris, May 13.—American merchants here, fearing a tariff war between France and the United States, have forwarded to the State department at Washington a petition, asking for the immediate appointment of a tariff commission to come here and negotiate.

BLOW TO IRRIGATION

Supreme Court Says Act May Be Unconstitutional.

ONE SUIT IS ALREADY PENDING

Opinion Declares No Power Is Given by Constitution to Reclaim Arid Land.

Washington, May 14.—The United States Supreme court in its decision in the Kansas-Colorado case today intimates rather strongly that the National reclamation act under which the Federal government is spending upwards of \$30,000,000 may be unconstitutional. It is not so held in specific terms, but the constitutionality of this act is in question, and it would not be surprising if private interests which are interfering with government projects should bring suit to restrain the government from diverting water for irrigation purposes.

There is really one such suit pending, brought by ex-Senator Turner, of Washington, on behalf of an Arizona company that wants to restrain government work on the Colorado river, so that it can use water to reclaim land in California. It is entirely probable that the Twin Falls company in Idaho may bring suit in the light of today's decision, for there is prospect of a conflict between the government and private enterprise along the Snake river.

In rendering the decision in the Kansas-Colorado case, Justice Brewer, on behalf of the court, declared that congress can only legislate in respect to such matters as are specifically enumerated in the constitution and that power to legislate with respect to irrigation of arid land was not one of the enumerated powers granted by the constitution.

The opinion holds, however, that congress may legislate with respect to irrigation of arid land within the territories.

Even though the constitutionality of the national reclamation law may ultimately be sustained, if the question is ever raised, the court strongly intimates that under the law there is no authority for constructing government projects unless the government owns a majority of the land to be reclaimed, holding that the government has power to dispose of and make rules respecting its own property. But, it is held, "we do not mean that its (congress) legislation can override state laws in respect to the general subject of reclamation."

This part of the decision would seem to affect the government work now in progress in Eastern Washington, where the government does not own a majority of the land to be reclaimed, in fact, is only a small owner. Should the constitutionality of the reclamation act be later established, it is inferred from this decision that the government may later be compelled to construct its works in accordance with state laws and construct only projects the majority of whose area is public land.

FIND CROP GREATLY DAMAGED.

Omaha Grain Men Make Gloomy Report After Trip.

Omaha, May 14.—A special train filled with a committee of 50 members of the Omaha Grain exchange, which has been making a tour of investigation of the Kansas and Nebraska wheat fields, returned this morning. The consensus of opinion follows:

Wheat, especially in the southeastern portion of Nebraska, has suffered about 10 per cent owing to the influx of green bugs and continued drought. Sumner county, Kansas will not make over 40 per cent. The bugs have done great damage to the fields which were examined. Some members declare the entire crop ruined between Caldwell, on the Oklahoma line, and the Wichita district. The party agrees that the yield of wheat will be very light as compared with former years.

The party covered the districts of Kansas and Nebraska which in the past have always raised bumper crops, going as far south as the Oklahoma state line.

Railroad Blamed for Wreck.

San Luis Obispo, Cal., May 14.—After two hours' deliberation the coroner's jury, holding an investigation of the Southern Pacific wreck at Honda Saturday afternoon, rendered a verdict this afternoon that the killed came to their deaths by burns and injuries received, and that by the evidence of witnesses the wreck was caused by defective equipment. All of the injured in the wreck are improving except Brake-man B. Fountain, whose back was severely injured and whose lower limbs were paralyzed.

Frisco Cars Carry Passengers.

San Francisco, May 14.—One hundred cars, manned and guarded by 350 nonunion strikebreakers, were operated yesterday from 8 A. M. until 7 P. M. on six of the 20 odd lines of the United Railroads. There were scores of acts of individual violence, but there was no riot beyond the ability of the police to put down. About 40,000 passengers were carried during the day. Thousands of them, women as well as men, were subjected to intolerable insults.

Want \$300 Per Month.

Panama, May 14.—As a result of a strike of workers on the steam shovels, only two shovels were worked today between Baso Biepo and Culebra. The shovel men demand \$300 per month instead of their present salary of \$210.