

FIGHT OVER CANAL BILL NOW UNDERWAY

40 MAJORITY FOR REPEAL OF TOLLS PROBABLE

Bitterest Battle of Present Administration Under Way—Party Lines Smashed—Debate Begins Over Limiting Debate to Fifteen Hours.

"Patriotism Against Party Platforms" Is Slogan of Supporters of Repeal—Some Republican Aid.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 26.—The battle in the house over the resolution providing for the repeal of the American tolls exemption clause of the Panama canal bill started at 4 o'clock this afternoon when Representative Henry called up a special rule, limiting the debate to 20 hours. The bill was introduced in the house by Senator J. Ham Lewis of Illinois. The resolution said in part:

"In pursuance of the true American doctrine of equal justice to all, special privilege to none, it is expedient and just that all vessels passing through the canal shall pay a sum of compensation so adjusted as to compensate for the expense and upkeep of the canal."

A final vote was expected Saturday night or Monday. In the house repeal seemed certain. Congressman Adamson predicted it by a majority of from 40 to 70. In the senate however defeat loomed as a possibility.

Chairman Henry of the rules committee proposed to limit debate on the repeal proposal to fifteen hours. Congressmen Mann and Murdock wanted more time.

Party lines were pretty well obliterated. Supporters of repeal were pleading for "patriotism against party platforms." And they appeared certain to win some republican votes. On the other hand, Congressman Underwood, the democratic floor leader, was taking a prominent part in the fight against repeal.

In connection with the repeal controversy Speaker Clark was looked on as facing one of the most serious problems of his political career, whether, as a possible candidate for the presidency in 1916, to oppose President Wilson openly and precipitate a party break with the tolls question an issue in the next campaign, or to remain only a passive opponent of the administration during the pending fight. His friends predicted that he would avoid a break, voting against repeal and issuing a short statement giving his reasons for doing so but taking no

(Continued on page 2.)

YOUNG GIRL IS BLAMED FOR DEATH OF MARY KILFOIL

LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 26.—Information tending to show that Lillian A. Palmer, 14, was responsible for the death by poison of Mary Kilfoil was laid before District Attorney Fredericks today by attorneys representing Philip Kilfoil, brother of the dead woman. Lillian Palmer is seriously ill in a San Diego hospital. Kilfoil is alleged to be responsible for her condition.

Mary Kilfoil died a few weeks ago after drinking poisoned chocolate. Her death was shrouded in mystery. Later it was found that Lillian Palmer was arrested on a statutory charge. This led to a further investigation of Mary Kilfoil's death, and it is to remove Philip Kilfoil from suspicion that the representations are made.

The district attorney stated that no action would be taken until a full investigation by detectives working under his order had been made.

VILLA ROUTED WITH HEAVY LOSS, TORREON; 700 REPORTED DEAD

MEXICO CITY, March 26.—That General Villa and his rebel troops were routed with heavy losses at Torreon on Wednesday was asserted at the war office here today. It was added that today they were in full retreat northward.

MEXICO CITY, March 26.—The rebels have been routed at Torreon and 700 of them were killed, according to an official announcement by the war office this afternoon. There were no details beyond the statement that the rebels had retreated at Hermosillo.

JOHNSON TO OPEN BASEBALL SEASON

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Mar. 26.—Governor Hiram W. Johnson will officially open the Coast League baseball season in Sacramento next Tuesday, having promised Manager Harry Wolverton of the Senators that he would toss the first ball over the plate.

Wolverton called on the governor today. The chief executive assured the Sacramento manager that he would be tickled to death to do the honors.

Governor Johnson is such a rabid fan that he can be properly termed a "bug." He has a box reserved at Buffalo Park and never misses a game.

COUNTY PATHOLOGIST DISCUSSED WITH KERR

The committee composed of A. C. Allen, Bert Anderson, Dr. Hart, A. S. V. Beckwith and F. H. Madden, appointed by the fruitgrowers' mass meeting to consider matters relative to securing a pathologist to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Professor P. J. O'Gara, is meeting with President Kerr of the O. A. C. at Corvallis this afternoon to discuss the proposition of the state educational institution paying half of the expenses from state funds for a pathologist, for the use of data, experiments and information collected. President Kerr arrived in Medford Thursday.

TRAINMEN KILLED IN SPOKANE COLLISION

SPOKANE, Wash., March 26.—Alonso E. Cole, engineer, and J. E. Decker, express messenger, are dead and three other trainmen are suffering from severe injuries today as the result of a head-on collision between Great Northern passenger train No. 44, eastbound, and a freight train near Priest River, Idaho, late yesterday. The collision is said by the dispatchers' office here to have been caused by the failure of the engineer of the freight to obey orders. No passenger was injured.

BUD ANDERSON TO BOX JOE SWAIN

VANCOUVER, Wash., Mar. 26.—Bud Anderson, farmer and former lightweight aspirant is matched today to box Joe Swain at Raymond, Wash., April 18. He has begun training.

HIGH OFFICERS BRITISH ARMY QUIT POSITIONS

Field Marshal French and Adjutant General Ewart Resign as Result of Ulster Affair—Asquith Trying Desperately to Tide Over Crisis.

Repudiation of "Gough Treaty" Alleged Cause—Cabinet's Downfall Only Temporarily Averted.

LONDON, March 26.—Premier Asquith was trying desperately today to tide over the crisis following the announcement of the resignation of two of the highest officers in the British army—Field Marshal French and Adjutant General Ewart. It was believed he was trying to persuade them to reconsider their action and remain in the service. French, at any rate, gossip had it, was determined to retire.

Repudiation of "Treaty" The two officers surrendered their commissions not because they objected to the war office's military preparations in Ulster, but because of Premier Asquith's repudiation of War Secretary Seely's "Gough treaty." To this doctrine, promising General Gough that the troops would not be required to conquer Ulster, but would be called on only to keep order, French and Ewart added their names. Repudiation of the "treaty" meant they would be unable to keep their pledge.

Many liberals considered the premier's refusal of Seely's resignation a mistake. Their view was that he had shown himself hopelessly incapable of handling such a situation as exists in Ireland and that his presence in the cabinet will be a continual source of weakness to the administration.

Reopens Controversy Referring to Premier Asquith's repudiation of the "Gough treaty," General Gough, the leader among those who resigned as a protest against War Minister Seely's preparations in Ulster, was quoted as saying, in Dublin, that the officers intended to hold the government to Seely's promise and "if the premier insists on withdrawing the guarantee given them he feared the whole controversy would be reopened. Minister Seely was in conference at the war office today with nearly all the British general army officers. The gathering's purpose was a secret.

PORTLAND TELEPHONE CASE "PURELY LOCAL"

NEW YORK, Mar. 26.—Asked here concerning the decree in Portland, officials of the American Telephone and Telegraph company referred to the annual report of the company in December, containing the following: "We wish to call attention to the fact that the Portland case is purely local and confined to a few local transactions in the states of California, Oregon, Montana, and Washington. It is not believed this decision will in any way affect the interests of the company."

REBELS SCOFF AT STORIES OF DEFEAT

EL PASO, Tex., March 26.—Fighting at Gomez Palacio was still in progress at midnight, according to a dispatch from General Villa received by General Chao at Juarez today from El Verjel, Villa's base. The Mexico City claim that the rebels had been routed was scoffed at by General Chao, who pointed out that if Villa's men were retreating in disorder, as the federals said, Villa himself could not be telegraphing from El Verjel.

FORMER CHORUS GIRL WHO IS SUING BANKER'S SON FOR DIVORCE



On the ground that he had abandoned her in less than one month after their marriage, Mrs. Ethel Loraine Belmont, wife of Raymond Belmont, son of August Belmont, the banker, is suing for a separation in the Supreme Court in New York.

This is the final chapter in a series of events that began with the elopement of the banker's son and the chorus girl on November 23, 1912.

FRESH EPIDEMIC OF RESIGNATIONS IN BRITISH ARMY

LONDON, March 26.—That there will be a fresh epidemic of resignations of British army officers within the next day or two was reported here tonight. They were expected in retaliation for the government's repudiation of War Secretary Seely's promise that troops would not be used to conquer Ulster if it resisted Irish home rule. It was said so many were likely that the army would be completely demoralized.

NATIONWIDE PLAN TO AID WELLESLEY

MOSCOW, Idaho, Mar. 26.—A movement was initiated here today by students of the State University, which is expected to be nationwide among colleges and school, having for its purpose the raising by subscriptions of money to aid Wellesley College, to erect an administration building to take the place of the one recently destroyed by fire. Word reached here that the college might not re-build because of lack of funds. More than \$100 was raised in small amounts here in a few minutes after the subscription was started.

TWO MEET DEATH IN SIOUX CITY FIRE

SIOUX CITY, Ia., March 26.—Two persons met death in a fire in the business district here today. The loss was estimated at \$300,000, partially covered by insurance. A quarter of a block of buildings were burned. A wall fell, striking an aerial truck and killing Frank Felton, pipe-man, and Seely Lawton, the fire chief's chauffeur. Two other firemen were injured.

The Weather Oregon—Tonight and Friday occasional rain northwest, unsettled in south and east portions, probably rain with snow east portion; southerly winds.

DISSOLUTION OF BELL TELEPHONE TRUST ORDERED

Admission of Operation in Violation of Sherman Act Admitted by Defendants in Decree Signed by Judge Bean in Favor of Government.

Unscrambling Anti-Trust Suit Settlement Revealed—Pacific Ordered to Sell Stock of Northwestern Line.

PORTLAND, Ore., Mar. 26.—Admission that the American Telephone and Telegraph company through its subsidiaries in the Pacific northwest, has been operating in violation of the Sherman anti-trust act, through strangulation of long distance competition on the part of the independent companies, is made by the defendants in a sweeping decree signed today by United States District Judge R. S. Bean, settling, with every detail in favor of the government, its suits against the so-called "telephone trust."

The decree is the result of another one of the famous "unscrambling" anti-trust suit settlements that have been made by the government since J. C. McReynolds has been the attorney general. The veil of secrecy that has shrouded all operations of the government in this case in the past two months was lifted today and it was learned that attorneys for all of the 42 defendants have been negotiating with McReynolds the terms of the decree that was entered today.

To Sell Northwestern Perhaps the most important phase of the decree entered is that the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company, a Bell subsidiary, is ordered to sell off the stock and bonds in the Northwestern Long Distance Telephone company, the Portland Independent Long Distance corporation that is now in the hands of a receiver because, it was alleged, of the business tactics of the "trust." The decree asserts that the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company at present owns \$721,000 of the \$750,000 stock issue of the Northwestern. The telephone company defendants admit virtually every charge that was made against them in the suit filed last July. The government gets everything that it asked for in the petition and more.

Twenty Days for Executive In Portland the Pacific company is given 20 days in which to carry out a contract providing for trunk lines between its toll boards and the toll boards of the Home Telephone company, to get her with similar trunks extending from the local boards of both to the Northwestern Long Distance Telephone lines, whereby patrons of both companies can have the use of the independent long distance service if they require. These inter-communicating connections are ordered at every point where competition exists. The Pacific is furthermore warned not to establish any special rates for those who will use their long distance service.

LEADING STOCKS MAKE LIGHT GAINS

NEW YORK, March 26.—The stock market was dull at the opening of the market today, Union Pacific, with a slight advance over yesterday's closing, being the only leading stock to rise. Trading was chiefly among professionals, with very little outside interest. Big Four and Corn Products gained slightly, while Steel, the coal stocks and some specialties fell off sharply. New Haven jumped more than 2 points on a few buying orders soon after the opening. Trading was almost motionless at noon. Bonds were steady. The market closed strong and active.

HEATING SAVES MILLION DOLLAR CROP OF PEARS

Cold Wave Finds Orchards Generally Prepared and Temperature Does Not Reach Danger Mark Through Strenuous Night.

Train of Crude Oil Distillate on Way to Prevent Fuel Famine—No Orchard That Smudged Injured.

Portland, Or., March 26. Weather will slowly moderate during next few days. Drake will arrive today and we will resume forecasts at once. BEALS.

Although Wednesday night was the coldest of the year, the thermometer dropping to 24 and in spots to 23, little damage was done to fruit, as the cold wave found most of the orchardists fully prepared and orchard heating was universally resorted to on an extensive basis. It is estimated that over \$5000 worth of crude oil distillate was burned in saving the million dollar pear crop and a dense pall of smoke hung all day over the entire Rogue river valley. Late pears and apple were not advanced enough to be endangered. The thermometer did not drop below the danger mark in any of the large orchards. The weather bureau predicts a gradual moderation.

It was a freeze rather than a frost and extended well into the foothills. At 10:30 o'clock Wednesday evening the first firing began at the Holloway, Bear Creek and Klamath orchards. At 12 o'clock general firing was ordered throughout the valley, a temperature of 29 being reached. From thence the thermometer gradually fell, reaching 24 at 6:30 o'clock. In one or two spots, a temperature of 23 was reached outside the orchards.

Thawing Out Gradual The thawing out was very gradual. It was 8 o'clock Thursday morning before the thermometer climbed above the freezing point. The dense pall of smoke retarded the thaw and acted most beneficially. As a result not near as much damage resulted as at first surmised.

There is grave danger of a shortage in fuel. A special train was on the way, ordered by telegraph, and is expected tonight or tomorrow. Most

(Continued on page 2.)

CRUSHING DEFEAT OF 1200 FEDERALS NEAR GUERRERO

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, Mar. 26.—Rebels arrived at Matamoras today from Guerrero and told of the overwhelming defeat at the latter place Monday of a force of 12000 federals under General Guardiola, who was on his way from Nuevo Laredo to attack the Matamoras garrison. Learning of his expedition a rebel detachment marched northward and west along the Rio Grande to meet it. The federals had occupied Guerrero when the rebels arrived and attacked them.

Guardiola lost heavily in the fight and only got off, the rebels said, by leaving about one hundred of his men in the town, who delayed the constitutionalists until he had such a start on the return journey to Nuevo Laredo with the rest of his force that it was hopeless to attempt overtaking him. The rear guard was reported to have been nearly exterminated.