

THINGS DOING AT THE U. S. CAPITOL

Washington, D. C., Feb. 29, 1912.

The War Department has sent troops to the border prepared to cross into Mexico if necessary to protect American lives and property in the new revolution.

The House will investigate the "money trusts" through the Committee upon banking and currency.

President Taft has recommended a commission to investigate the high cost of living. Rev. Madison C. Peters, the New York minister who charged re-

sponsibility upon the retailers and established a grocery, found they were making only a very moderate profit.

James J. Hill, of the Great Northern Railway, appeared before the Stanley committee of the House, upon transportation facilities of the Steel Corridor.

The general opinion here is that Speaker Clark will be nominated by the Democrats for the Presidency. Ex-Governor Folk, of Missouri, having withdrawn in his favor, the Missouri delegation will be unanimously for Mr. Clark.

Harmon headquarters will be in charge of Ex-Congressman Gordon, of Ohio. Congressmen generally say that Gov. Wilson has written too much which would be prejudicial to a candidate.

RECEIPT FOR ORCHARD SPRAYING

The members of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment League are studying the bud moth, to discover the most satisfactory methods of spraying for the pest. The custom among orchard men is to spray in the spring for this pest, but satisfactory results are not always obtained.

The second brood larva of this moth feed upon the under side of the leaves in the fall, and it has been noticed that where the fourth codling moth spray is applied, the bug does very little harm. In order to secure data on the results of experiments, the crop pest experts at the Oregon Agricultural College have prepared the following directions for work upon which reports are to be made by the members of the league.

Arrange the orchard in four plots. Spray the first about Sept. 1 with arsenate of lead, 2 pounds to 50 gallons of lime-sulphur, diluted to 1 part to 30. The second plot is sprayed about Oct. 1 with the same spray. The third plot must be sprayed the following spring with the same solution, applied just as the blossom buds are beginning to expand. The fourth plot is left unsprayed as a check, with which the results of observation taken on each of the other plots during the spring and summer may be compared.

Major McIndoe, corps of engineers has made the statement that ships will be able to go through the Panama canal by the fall of 1913. Nothing but government vessels will pass through until the official opening of the canal on January 1, 1915.

Roosevelt headquarters are being established here.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has asked representatives of all express companies to give it detailed information upon thirty-four questions. Its hearings have been discontinued for a few days to allow information collected. Meanwhile the Senate Post-office committee is examining representatives of express companies. The general sentiment is that the Interstate Commerce Commission has "made good." When it was organized, some people said commissions have accomplished nothing. It looks as though, when it gets through with the express companies, there will be a little use for Parcels Post as there was for Government ownership and operation of railroads, after it regulates railroad rates, and that thereby Uncle Sam will save from fifty to seventy-five million dollars per year required for equipment and rebuilt postoffices and an operating deficit of \$150,000,000 yearly. It proved that the Government did not have to own the railroads to prevent the railroads owning the Government. Possibly the commission may investigate the cost of Parcels Post systems abroad. It is generally known that government operation is most expensive. Such expenditures, it is said, would necessitate continuance of high tariff duties to afford revenue; and, to save a few cents yearly to each person on carriage of parcels, the people would thus saddle themselves with a load of Government debt. In comparing rates, the Commission would, of course, consider that labor and similar costs are much cheaper in Europe.

Following the recommendation of Postmaster General Hitchcock that the Government condemn and operate the telegraph systems—the wireless and air ships not being specified—President Taft has recommended and that the Government build and own railroads in Alaska. Defense of the recommendation is made that, because merchandise is carried incidentally to matter of intelligence, advocates of Parcels Post say the nation is already in the transportation business and that now have Parcels Post. From Alaska to nationwide railroad operation would appear to be simple.

Socialists government is only costing Milwaukee \$1,000,000 increase yearly.

C. S. Heryn said to Senator Bourne, Chairman of the Senate Postoffice Committee in the hearings: "Your manufacturing interests are all in Massachusetts, are they not? You have no factories in Oregon, have you? No wonder you want the Government to haul your goods to the Pacific coast. If I owned knitting mills way down east and wanted to get the goods way out west, I would try to get the government to go into the delivery wagon business and handle my manufacturered product at a flat rate at a nominal price. Parcels Post will not help the farmers market their products. The farmers cannot use the mails for shipping their products and Parcels Post will not build up a home market for him. It only enables him to buy, but not to sell. It quadruples the force of the alluring catalog to excite his family to buy this or that article whether needed or not, destroys his country town and trading point, leaves an empty store room and a "Deserted Village, and lures his boys and girls to the over-crowded cities.

WOULD TAFT BE A GRACEFUL LOSER?

His Friends Believe He Could Meet Defeat and Still Smile.

How does President Taft view his own chances for re-election? If the fortunes of the campaign should go against him, would he be a good loser? Can he stand the gaff without his future being embittered?

These are questions being asked by Americans, who love the National game of politics and take interest in it. Nothing is more uncertain than this same game and if the tide should go against the republicans and land a democrat in office, would the big fellow in the White House still smile?

President Taft's supporters do not expect anything of that sort to happen, but they believe he is a good loser, basing this opinion on his past



PRESIDENT TAFT

actions and what he has said whenever the subject has been brought up.

He must realize that, holding as he does, the biggest job on the Western Hemisphere, many others have their eyes fixed on the same high place and the interests, which always seek to control the government, are ceaseless in their efforts to place a man favorable to them in the presidential chair. Knowing then the uncertainty of politics and the traditional ingratitude of republics, President Taft has spoken of just such a contingency. He spoke directly to the point on this matter when he said:

"I am very grateful for the honors the people have given me. I do not affect to deny the satisfaction I should feel, if, after casting up the totals, pro and con, and striking a balance, they should decide that my first term had been fruitful enough of good to warrant their giving me another. Any man would be proud of such a verdict, but I have not been willing, nor shall I be, to purchase it at a sacrifice of my freedom to do my duty as I see it. My happiness is not dependent upon any office and I shall go back to private life with no heartburnings, if the people, after an unprejudiced review of my administration, conclude that someone else can serve them to their greater advantage.

"The truth is that political considerations have not weighed heavily with me. I have tried to do in each case what seemed to me the wisest thing, regardless of its effect upon my future. Indeed, in more than one case I have been perfectly conscious whose bad blood would be stirred by some act of mine, or some refusal to act. The circumstance that some persons who hail me after one application of equal justice, as a far seeing, conservative patriot, denounce me after the next, as an unreasoning radical, does not greatly disturb my equanimity. I set that down as all in the day's work."

TAFT MONEY OFFERED

Bet Makes Big President Odds-On Favorite.

The wager recently offered in New York of \$5000 to \$4000, that the president will be re-elected if nominated, seems to show that somebody has considerable confidence in the return of the president's administration to power. Somebody with \$5000 believes that Bill Taft can come back.

Money talks and some of the enthusiastic backers of Mr. La Follette, Colonel Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson ought to come to the front and take the short end of this bet. As a sporting proposition, this is a good bet, even if he loses, but the fact that there are no takers as yet speaks eloquently. The east, which necessarily gets a clearer view of the president and a more intimate knowledge of his work, from being closer to him, is evidently pretty well satisfied with President Taft and believes he will be re-elected. The bet will be allowed to stand for some time, it is reported, waiting for some courageous enemy of the administration to come to the front with his \$4000.

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