

Taft Sends Special Message to Congress On Currency Reform

Panama Canal Tolls And Various Governmental Questions Also Come in For Treatment -- Approves National Reserve Association.

Urges Immediate Establishment of Rural Parcels Post -- Advocates Free Passage of Panama Canal for American Shipping.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.--President Taft sent another of his promised series of messages to congress today. This time he dealt with currency reform, Panama canal tolls and various governmental questions.

On the subject of currency reform and in connection with the forthcoming report to congress on the monetary commission, President Taft said it was exceedingly fortunate that in "the wide and undisputed policy of maintaining unchanged the main features of our banking system rendered it at once impossible to introduce a central bank."

Approves National Reserve. He gave his approval to the proposed national reserve association. As to the management of this association the president said that this was mainly bankers' work and the banks could be trusted better than anybody else to conduct it. However, he urged that some form of government supervision and ultimate control would prevail and that the currency reform should not be made a political issue.

Rural Parcels Post. Immediate establishment of a rural parcels post was urged.

The president took the position that the post would not destroy the business of the country storekeepers. "Instead of doing this," he said, "I think the change will greatly increase business for the benefit of all. The reduction in the cost of living will bring about ought to make its commission certain."

On Panama Canal. On the Panama canal the president dealt with the question of whether American shipping should pay tolls. "We want control," he said, "It is United States has the power to relieve from the payment of tolls any part of our shipping that congress deems wise," said the president.

"We want control of it United States money that built it. We have the right to charge tolls for its use. These tolls must be the same to every one; but when we are dealing with our own ships the practice of many governments subsidizing their own merchant vessels is so well established in general that a subsidy equal to the tolls, an equivalent remission of tolls, can not be held to be a discrimination in the use of the canal."

Among the president's recommendations were the following:

Contributory pension system for government employees.

Elimination of all local offices from politics.

Increased appropriations for the completion of river and harbor improvements along the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Missouri rivers.

An extension of the term of service of the special board of engineers on the waterway from the Lakes to the Gulf.

Power in the president to remove officers of federal courts for cause.

Payment of the French spoliation judgments.

Employers liability and workmen's compensation legislation called to the attention of congress.

Fierce Political Street Battle

By Associated Press. New York, Dec. 21.--Dispatches received here from the city of Panama tell of a fierce political street battle lasting two days between followers of Roosevelt and Porras, rival candidates for the presidency. Serious injury to a large number of participants is reported and the situation is said to be so alarming that the United States may be compelled to intervene.

Some Americans who are conversant with the facts believe that the little republic is on the verge of revolution.

As to Allegations Against Packers

By Associated Press. Chicago, Dec. 21.--Whether district attorney, Wilkerson's opening address to the jury was clearly and decisively stated as regards the allegations that the meat packers had violated the criminal provision of the Sherman anti-trust law was to be decided by Judge Carpenter when the hearing was resumed at 10 o'clock today. The court was expected to rule as to whether counts one and two of the indictment should be stricken out in accordance with a motion of Attorney Levy Mayer yesterday afternoon. Mr. Mayer's point was that the National Packing Company was not mentioned in these portions of the indictment and therefore that they must fall because the government contends that this concern mainly fixed the price of meat.

In the event that the court's ruling favored the government the packers' counsel were prepared to begin presenting their cases to the jury. How long this would take was problematical.

New York Promises To Support Taft

By Associated Press. New York, Dec. 21.--President Taft went back to Washington early today with assurances from Samuel Koenig, republican county chairman, that he would have the support of the New York county delegation at the coming national convention. Chairman Koenig took the occasion of the President's visit to state that Colonel Roosevelt was not a candidate for 1912.

The president returned without seeing Colonel Roosevelt or receiving from him. A visit paid by Lyman Abbott started a report that he was an ambassador from his associate in magazine work but this Dr. Abbott promptly denied.

Want Teddy's Name on Ballot. Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 21.--A petition asking that the name of Theodore Roosevelt be placed on the primary ballot as a candidate for the republican nomination for president of the United States was received by Secretary of State Wait this morning. The petition is signed by Attorney John O. Yeliser, of Omaha, and 25 other voters.

GREAT Y. M. C. A. CONFERENCE.

By Associated Press. Oklahoma City, Okla., Dec. 21.--More than 50 college men will leave Oklahoma City for Ruston, La., to attend the Southern Y. M. C. A. Conference of College Students to be held during the holidays. The purpose of the conference is to give impetus to the college Y. M. C. A. movement in the South and to enable the students in the educational institutions to become better acquainted. Every college in Oklahoma will be represented.

SITUATION IN CHINA.

Amoy, China, Dec. 21.--Reports from the treat port of Swatow, for which place the United States monitor Monterey sailed yesterday, state that everything is quiet.

Trouble is expected to occur at Chao Chow, in the north of Swatow, between the Lewis, the Cantonese troops, and the aboriginal tribe of Hakkas from the interior districts.

NEW STANDARDS FOR GOVERNMENT PRINTING PAPER

By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 21.--Discovery by the congressional joint committee on printing that "adulterated" paper had been used for years in the government printing office, today led to the announcement of a complete new set of government paper standards. The adulteration was accomplished by the substitution of clay for the more substantial wood or rag fibres, leading to the grave fear that many of the printed records of the government will crumble and become unreadable in less than a century.

Contaminated Well Caused Epidemic

By Associated Press. Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 21.--A pipe, its use and source unknown, but with one terminal opening into the largest of the wells which supply the city with water, is believed to be the cause of an epidemic of gastro-intestinal disease resembling cholera, which has attacked 500 persons in Lincoln. It is blamed to for the epidemic of typhoid fever which caused a score of deaths in the city last August.

The pipe was discovered yesterday to be dripping contaminated matter into the well. At previous investigations it had been dry and the water authorities had not suspected it was the source of disease.



Sketch of Katie Alterman, on the witness stand as a witness for the prosecution at the trial of Harris and Frank, charged with manslaughter for the death of more than 100 of their employees, now being held in New York. Miss Alterman, who was employed in the Triangle Waist Company factory, told a dramatic story of the panic and scenes during the conflagration. Her testimony was a severe blow to the defense, for its dramatic recital left a vivid impression on the jury.

A. J. Draper President Chadwick-Hoskins Co. E. A. Smith Resigns

Of interest in mill circles throughout the South will be the news that Mr. E. A. Smith today resigned as president of the Chadwick-Hoskins Company, and that Mr. Arthur J. Draper was elected to succeed him.

The resignation was tendered at a meeting of directors of the Chadwick-Hoskins Company held this morning at the Union National Bank.

Mr. Smith met with the directors and handed to them a letter containing his resignation.

Mr. Draper has recently bought Mr. Smith's interest in the company.

Mr. Smith is interested in several other mills--the Rhodiss, Oconee and others.

Program in Meat Packers Trial.

Chicago, Dec. 21.--The ten Chicago packers on trial for criminal violation of the Sherman law lost in the first skirmish of their trial today when Federal Judge Carpenter overruled the motion of the defense to strike out counts two and three of the indictment.

The court also ruled adversely on the motion to have the jury instructed to disregard the allegation of government counsel in the opening statement regarding the absorption of the Schwarzchild and Sulberger Company and the New York Butchers' Dressed Meat Company by alleged packers' combination.

LARGE GIFT TO WESLEYAN COLLEGE.

By Associated Press. Macon, Ga., Dec. 21.--C. S. Hoges, a Decatur county lumber and turpentine operator, today contributed \$10,000 to the Wesleyan college here.

There was great rejoicing at the college this morning when President W. N. Ainsworth announced the news of the gift.

Program in Meat Packers Trial.

Chicago, Dec. 21.--The ten Chicago packers on trial for criminal violation of the Sherman law lost in the first skirmish of their trial today when Federal Judge Carpenter overruled the motion of the defense to strike out counts two and three of the indictment.

The court also ruled adversely on the motion to have the jury instructed to disregard the allegation of government counsel in the opening statement regarding the absorption of the Schwarzchild and Sulberger Company and the New York Butchers' Dressed Meat Company by alleged packers' combination.

THIRTY FIVE CATS AND TWO DOGS NAMED AS CO-RESPONDENTS IN DIVORCE CASE

By Associated Press. Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 21.--Naming as co-respondent not another man, but 35 cats and two dogs, Samuel Pomeroy, of Bethel, Kan., filed suit for divorce. He asserted in his petition that after his marriage four years ago his wife added the pets to the household and gave them more care than she gave him. Pomeroy is 74 years old and a Civil War veteran.

"In all my experience of four years as soldier," he said, "I never had to contend with such conditions as those dogs and cats created in my home."

CONTEMPT CASE IN DYNAMITING INVESTIGATION

By Associated Press. Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 21.--A plea that he had been under an intense nervous strain because he had been "shadowed by thugs and hirelings" in the employ of the National Erectors' Association and labor unions during the dynamiting investigation, did not avail County Prosecutor Baker when he appeared in the criminal court today to show cause why he should not be punished for contempt.

Judge Joseph-Markey fined him \$50.

Baker interrupted a murder trial late yesterday when he forced Robert J. Foster, a detective for the Erectors' Association, into court and asked Judge Markey to protect him against interference by Foster.

The court said today the prosecutor's action was irregular and unnecessary but added that he would instruct the grand jury to inquire into the identity of persons that had been annoying their prosecutor.

To indicate the mental stress under which he had labored, Baker told the court that a member of the preceding grand jury had become insane through consideration of the alleged dynamiting plot and had imagined he was John J. McNamara, on trial for his life. The man was dismissed, the prosecutor said, because it was feared they might misconstrue that action, so great was interest in the investigation.

COMMITTEES NAMED FOR CONSERVATION CONGRESS.

By Associated Press. Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 21.--John B. White, president of the conservation congress today named committees for the ensuing year. They include: Executive committee--Prof. E. Lee Worsham, Atlanta, Ga. Chairman; J. Lewis Thompson, Houston, Texas; Walter H. Page, editor World's Work; Dr. H. E. Barnard, Indianapolis, Ind.; Mrs. Philip N. Moore, of St. Louis, president of the general federation of women's clubs, and three ex-officio members, Gifford Pinchot, Washington; B. N. Baker, Baltimore; Dr. Henry C. Wallace.

Charles S. Barrett, Union City, Ga., president of the National Farmers' Union, was placed on the committee on lands and agriculture.

China's Premier Officially Refuses To Accept Republic

THE DAY IN CONGRESS. By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 21. SENATE.

Met at noon. President's message on finance and departmental matters read. Senator Brown (Nebraska) predicted the senate would pass the house Sherwood service pension bill after holiday recess. Senator Root, of New York, introduces a bill making effective the fur seal treaty with England, Russia and Japan.

HOUSE. Met at noon. President's message read. Tariff board report ordered printed.

GYPSIES FAITHFUL TO MEMER CHARGED WITH PERJURY.

Special to The News. Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 21.--Stephen John, one of the chief men of a tribe of Gypsies located near this city, is under arrest in New Hanover county jail awaiting the arrival of an officer from Arkansas, who will serve a bench warrant upon him from the superior court of Pulaski county. The warrant charges perjury.

The members of the nomadic tribe are loyal to him, and have repeatedly appeared before the authorities here and offered bail for their incarcerated leader. They at first offered to place a \$1,000 cash bond on deposit, and then raised this by steps to the large sum of \$10,000. The statutes forbade his release, however, and he will be taken to Arkansas for trial.

He is a well appearing man, and claims that he can easily establish his innocence.

Sheriff Bessey has guards at Richeson's bedside every moment of the day and night to prevent the prisoner making any further effort to injure himself.

Richeson Will Recover, It's Thought

By Associated Press. Boston, Mass., Dec. 21.--Everything pointed today to the rapid recovery of Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson, accused of the murder of Avis Linnell, and who mutilated himself in his cell at the Suffolk county jail yesterday.

Possible blood poisoning is the only element that stands in the way of Richeson's recovery and that, the surgeons say, is extremely unlikely.

Difference of opinion was expressed in legal and medical circles as to whether the accused minister's condition will permit him to appear in court on January 18th, the date set for his trial.

Attorney William A. Morse, of Richeson's counsel, says he believes that his client will be in no physical condition to undergo the ordeal of his appearance in court soon.

KILLED IN JUMP FROM BURNING BUILDING

By Associated Press. Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 21.--Frightened by rapid progress of flames that eventually destroyed the hotel Grant, at Grant, 20 miles from here today, Orcellus Seward, 64 years, old, jumped from the second story of the burning building. He was killed. Several other persons were seriously hurt by jumping.

PERSIANS ENGAGE IN BATTLE WITH THE RUSSIANS

By Associated Press. Teheran, Dec. 21.--Serious fighting between the Persian constitutionalists and the Russian troops is reported to have occurred. No details are given in the dispatch from Tabriz, which conveys this report.

Demand Dismissal of Shuster. London, Dec. 21.--It is understood, according to a news agency dispatch from St. Petersburg that unless Persia decides today to accept the terms of the Russian ultimatum demanding the dismissal of W. Morgan Shuster, the American acting as treasurer general, the commander of the Russian troops now concentrated at Kasbin has been ordered to advance on Teheran. The troops who number about 4,000 of all arms, will in the event of Persia's continued refusal begin their advance tomorrow.

His Statement Issued To-day is a Categorical Reply to a Communication From Representative at Peace Conference.

Rejusl Without Qualification--Proposals of Rebel Leaders Submitted to Peking--Time of Truce Extended Until December Thirtieth.

By Associated Press. Peking, China, Dec. 21.--Premier Yuan Shi Kai, in an official statement today said that he without any qualification refused to accept a republic.

The refusal of Premier Yuan Shi Kai to accept a republic is a categorical reply to a communication made to him from Shanghai by his representative, Tang Shao Yi, after the meeting of the peace conference between delegates of the imperial government and revolutionaries held there yesterday.

A statement after the session of the conference yesterday afternoon said that Tang Shao Yi, replying to Dr. Wu Ting Fang, the leader of the revolutionary delegates, who had presented the case in favor of a republic, "expressed his readiness to accept Dr. Wu Ting Fang's views but that the matter was so important that he must first communicate with Peking."

The armistice between the opposing forces was extended to December 30 in order to give time for a reply from Peking.

TAFT SIGNS JOINT BILL APPROVING ACTION ON TREATY

By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 21.--With Secretary of State Knox as the only witness President Taft at 10:17 a. m. today signed the joint resolution passed by congress ratifying his action in serving on Russia of the abrogation of the treaty of 1832 with that country. The treaty automatically will continue in effect until January 1, 1913. In the meantime efforts will be made to negotiate a new pact eliminating the cause of friction which led to the termination of this one.

The house late yesterday adopted the senate resolution as a substitute for the Sulzer resolution, which initiated the legislation.

Upon his return from New York this morning President Taft immediately inquired if the resolution was ready for his signature. It had been signed by Vice President Sherman and Speaker Clark last night. President Taft affixed his signature as soon as he reached his desk in the executive offices and the last step of the abrogation proceedings had been taken.

Coincident with the signing of the resolution of abrogation today there was made public at the White House an exchange of telegrams between President Taft and the Emperor of Russia. The president under date of Dec. 19 sent his best wishes to the Emperor in connection with the celebration of the feast of St. Nicholas, the name Saint of the Russian ruler.

The message follows: "I beg to offer to your majesty my cordial felicitations upon this anniversary and the assurance of my high regard and good wishes for yourself and for the nation over which your majesty reigns."

The Emperor replied: "Pray accept my cordial thanks for your congratulations and good wishes."

Bribe Takers Gwenn An Invitation

By Associated Press. Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 21.--Judge Skeen, of Lee county, Virginia, today issued a proclamation in which he invited all who sold their votes in a recent election in that county to appear before the court, confess and accept the minimum fine. Otherwise it is asserted, indictments will be returned and prosecutions started.

The court will allow them one year in which to pay the fines. The Virginia law automatically disfranchises a voter for life upon a confession or conviction of fraud in elections. In spite of this, however, it is expected that hundreds will confess.

The grand jury is said to have obtained from alleged vote buyers the names of men who sold their votes and the grand jury has returned 200 true bills. The jury adjourned today until February, to await confessions.

Death of Benjamin F. Jonas.

By Associated Press. New Orleans, Dec. 21.--Benjamin F. Jonas, former United States senator for Louisiana and for the past half century a prominent figure in the political and commercial life of this state, died at his home here today. He was 77 years old.

THE WEATHER. North Carolina: Rain tonight, colder near the coast and in extreme west portion. Friday, generally fair.