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## STORM SWEEPS OVER COUNTRY

ALL THE EASTERN PART OF U. S. ASSAILED BY STORM OF RAIN, SNOW AND WIND.

### 3 PERSONS MEET DEATH

New York One of the Worst Sufferers. Wires Are Down and All Train Service Demoralized.

Savannah, Ga.—Developing suddenly in southwestern Georgia, a storm swept through south Georgia in a northeasterly direction. It will continue its course up the Atlantic coast. The first news of the storm's approach was received by the local weather bureau in the following telegram from the central bureau in Washington: "Hoist northeast storm warnings, 8 p. m., Fort Monroe to Savannah. Storm central in southwest Georgia moving northeastward and increasing in intensity. Will give strong winds along south Atlantic coast, shifting to northwest."

New York. — A northeast storm, swerving to the northwest which first brought rain, then snow, raged over New York and vicinity, cutting the city almost completely off from telegraph and telephone communication. Reports showed its effects to be widespread.

Three deaths due to the storm occurred here, two together when a roof collapsed under the weight of wet snow, crushing a man and a boy. Another man, blinded by snow, was killed by a train. Several persons were overcome by exposure, and a number were injured in street accidents.

Trains for the most part left the railroad terminals on time, but with wires down, quickly, were lost track of. Nothing could be learned concerning incoming trains except as they arrived late on all lines.

Wet snow snapped telegraph and telephone wires, and, with a gale blowing 72 miles an hour at times, many poles toppled over.

Ships due to reach this port were held up outside. On advices from Washington, the local bureau warned shipping not to put out to sea.

The disturbance centered at Cape Hatteras, and moved north, gaining in intensity, and was expected to pass directly above New York. Albany reported a 6-inch snowfall; in New York the weather bureau recorded a fall of 9 1/2 inches. More snow and colder weather was forecast.

Philadelphia.—One of the worst storms in years raged in this city and vicinity, paralyzing wire communication to eastern points and bringing train service between this city and New York to a standstill. The Pennsylvania Railroad company estimated that on its lines there are between twenty-five and thirty trains stalled between the two cities, while the Reading is in equally as bad shape.

### LINES OPERATED BY POOLS

House Committee Finds Dissolution of Combinations Would Cripple Trade.

Washington.—Foreign and domestic shipping of the United States is so combined by agreements, pools and conference arrangements that an attempt to dissolve the combinations would cripple trade. This is the conclusion reached by the house merchant, marine and fisheries committee in a final report of the so-called shipping trust investigation, made public here. The committee, after two years of exhaustive inquiry, recommends that both foreign and domestic shipping combinations be placed under the strict control of the interstate commerce commission, and that, if necessary, the commission be enlarged to care for the additional work.

The final recommendations of the committee embodied in the fourteenth volume of its report, just completed, sets forth that shipping lines in virtually every trade route from or to United States ports are operated by agreement or conference to restrain competition. The report declares that the advantages accruing to both shipper and ship lines through these agreements are so great that combinations should be allowed to continue, under the supervision of the interstate commerce commission.

Debts of 48 States Total \$342,251,000. Washington.—Preliminary figures made public by the director of the census, W. J. Harris, show the total indebtedness of the 48 states of the Union, less sinking fund assets, on June 30, 1913, was \$342,251,000, an increase of \$107,342,000, or nearly 50 per cent, over the total ten years ago. Including sinking fund assets, the total debt amounted to \$419,157,000, of which sum about \$19,000,000 represented the floating debt. The funded debt was \$400,000,000, of which about \$359,000,000 represented the floating debt.

## PUZZLING UNCLE SAM'S SECRETARIES



### WEST IS NAMED SENATOR

APPOINTEE ONE OF BEST KNOWN MEN OF SOUTHERN GEORGIA.

Has Been Prominently Identified With Politics in the State for Many Years.

Atlanta.—Governor Slaton appointed William Stanley West of Valdosta, one of the best known men in the state, to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator A. O. Bacon, whose death occurred in Washington, February 14. Governor Slaton did not write any formal announcement. He merely walked out into the reception room, saw that the newspapers were all represented and spoke one word: "West!"

In an instant the news traveled throughout the capitol and was flashed to all parts of the city and state. Commenting on the appointment, Governor Slaton said:

"It was only a moment ago that I came to a definite decision. Any time up to five minutes ago I was free to change my mind. I had told no one of my intention."

When seen after the statement had been made at the capitol that the governor had appointed him, Mr. West said:

"I have been in Atlanta for several days, but I have not intruded myself upon the governor. After the burial of Senator Bacon my friends not only from all parts of south Georgia, but throughout the state, notified me that they would present my claims to the governor. Many of them asked me to meet them in Atlanta for a conference on the situation and I have been here for a few days with that end in view."

William Stanley West, the oldest surviving son of James and Mary A. West, is a leading member of the Lowndes county bar, with residence and office in the city of Valdosta. He was born in Marion county, Georgia, August 23, 1849; was educated in Mercer university, where he graduated with the degree of bachelor of arts, subsequently receiving the degree of master of arts from the same institution, completing his education when he was 33 years of age. While a student there he was honored with the presidency of the Cleronian Literary society and was anniversary of that society in 1880.

From 1892 to 1897 he served as a member of the lower house of the state legislature, and in 1898-99 was a member of the state senate. In 1900 he declined a return to the lower house, but was elected to that body in 1902 and served until 1904. In 1905-06 he was again returned to the state senate without opposition, and was then elected president of that body. In 1908 he was sent as a delegate at large from the state of Georgia to the national Democratic convention, held at Denver, Col.

Snow Throughout the South. Atlanta.—Atlanta was in the grip of the most persistent snowstorm she has had in years. The snow was by no means confined to Atlanta, but on the contrary Atlanta was one of the last cities which the blizzard visited. Snow fell in Charleston, Savannah and the cities of the mountain sections before it began to fall in Atlanta. The snow stretched its blanket over the entire south all the way from Richmond to New Orleans, leaving out only a small part of Florida and possibly a few isolated spots here and yonder.

### BECKER MAY BE FREED

COURT DECISION PROBABLY MEANS BECKER CASE WILL BE DISMISSED.

Decision Alleges That Goff Was Unfair in His Treatment of Becker.

New York.—The conviction of former Police Lieutenant Charles Becker of the murder of the gambler, Herman Rosenthal, was annulled by the courts of appeals at Albany, the highest court in the state. He is entitled to a new trial, but it seemed probable that he might go free without facing a second ordeal. It was made known that District Attorney Charles S. Whitman believes that under the prevailing opinion handed down by the court, conviction a second time will be impossible.

Appeals taken by the four gunmen, "Whitey" Lewis, "Lefty Louie," "Gyp the Blood" and "Dago Frank," convicted as actual murderers of Rosenthal, and whom Becker was accused of having instigated to commit the crime, were not sustained and they will have to die in the electric chair, probably in March, except in the event of executive clemency.

Ossining, N. Y.—"It's a long lane that has no turning," Charles Becker said in the "death house" of Sing Sing prison, when he received news of the court's decision.

### WOMEN BRAVE SNOW TO VOTE

Thousands of Them Took Part in Primaries at Chicago.

Chicago.—Thousands of Chicago women had their first real experience in Chicago with the ballot box and took part in the actual nomination of candidates for the city council. In wards in which women candidates were running in opposition to men for places in the city council, the women candidates toured the wards and hustled for votes in approved political fashion.

A snowstorm early in the day delayed many voters, and a movement fostered by many suffrage leaders, who believed that women should not formally ally themselves with any specific party, kept hundreds from voting at the primaries.

### Forced to Remove Head Dress.

Washington.—Miss Maud McLure Kelly of Birmingham, Ala., was admitted to practice before the Supreme court on motion of Secretary Bryan, but to do so she had to take off her head dress. Miss Kelly was anxious to wear her academic cap and gown upon being admitted. The court marshal gently reminded her, however, that members of the bar must remove their hats in addressing the court and that the rule applied alike to men and women.

### Jim Conley Is Convicted.

Atlanta.—Jim Conley begins the serving of a year's sentence on the chain-gang following the verdict of a jury in his case, which reported against the former pencil factory sweeper, charged with being accessory after the fact in the murder of Mary Phagan by Leo Frank. Conley took his sentence stoically. He smiled when he was told by his attorney that he "had got off light." The second day's developments in the sordid trial proceedings in which Conley was principal were not sensational.

## LURED OVER RIVER AND SHOT TO DEATH

VERGARA KILLED BY BAND OF FEDERALERS AFTER THEY HAD CROSSED INTO TEXAS.

### COLQUITT WIRES TO BRYAN

Texas Governor Denies Intention to Invade Mexico, But Wants to Apprehend the Murderers.

Austin, Texas.—Ranger Captain J. J. Sanders, reporting to Gov. O. E. Colquitt, made the direct charge that Clemente Vergara, an American ranchman, was shot to death while in the custody of Mexican federal troops, ostensibly en route from the jail at Hidalgo to federal headquarters at Piedras Negras, Mexico. Governor Colquitt telegraphed Secretary of State Bryan asking what method should be followed in an effort to apprehend those responsible for the killing of Vergara.

Captain Sanders, in his report, said: "Will advise that on the morning of February 13, five federal soldiers under command of Apolonio Rodriguez crossed the Rio Grande to an island belonging to the United States, taking therefrom eleven horses belonging to Clemente Vergara, carrying them to the Mexican side of the river. In passing the house of Vergara, which stands on the banks of the river on the Texas side, one of the men went to the river and called to Vergara, requesting him to come across the river, as the captain wanted to arrange with him about paying or the horses."

"Vergara and a nephew of his crossed in a skiff to the Mexican side, where two more men came to the water's edge, leaped into the skiff and struck him three blows on the head with a pistol, dragging him to the bank and carrying him to Hidalgo. On Sunday at 2 a. m. he was taken from the Hidalgo jail and started with guards ostensibly to Piedras Negras, but was shot to death after proceeding only a short distance. Vergara was born and reared in Webb county, Texas, and I am informed that he had a pass to cross the river, signed by Sheriff Sanchez, of Webb county, and Garza Galan."

The text of Governor Colquitt's telegram to Secretary Bryan was:

"Your telegram in answer to the one sent by me to the president is received. I do not want to invade Mexico with a military force. I asked your co-operation in maintaining the rights and dignity of this state and your consent to allow me to send state rangers, who are peace officers, in pursuit of those who are constantly transgressing our laws. Again I ask the president to advise me who is recognized by him as the constituted authority in Mexico. I repeat the inquiry and ask you to recognize as constituted in the state of Nuevo Leon, as I desire to present requisitions to the proper authorities of that state for the surrender of fugitives from Texas justice, notably those responsible for the theft of Clemente Vergara's property and his subsequent murder."

### FAVOR COTTON SALES BILL

Measure Would Require Specification of Grades With Standard.

Washington.—The senate committee on agriculture and forestry submitted a favorable report on the bill introduced last spring by Senator Smith of South Carolina, to regulate the selling of cotton. The bill, designed to reform the rules and regulations of the New York and New Orleans cotton exchanges, would require any person or corporation in the making of an offer for future delivery of cotton, to specify the grade or grades contracted for. The secretary of agriculture would be required to standardize the grades of "upland" and "gulf" cotton separately, "gulf" cotton not to include anything below the grade of "good ordinary" or above "middling fair."

The bill further would require that in dealing with long-staple cotton the length of the staple shall be designated in all contracts and deliveries must be made according to contract.

Any dealings in violation of this system would be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$5,000 or imprisonment for not more than a year or both.

### Two Guilty in Everglades Lottery.

Kansas City, Mo.—R. H. Martin and Joseph Borders, Kansas City agents of the Florida Fruit Lands company, pleaded guilty in the federal court at Kansas City to the charges of conspiracy and the conducting of a lottery in the sale of lands in the Everglades of Florida. Judge Van Valkenburgh reserved sentence. Martin and Borders were indicted with six other officers and agents of the lands company last November on the general charge of misuse of the mails. It was charged they misrepresented lands sold.

## THE DRAINAGE COST

MECKLENBURG LAND OWNERS WHO ARE BENEFITED WILL ARBITRATE COST.

### THE BENEFITED WILL PAY

Drainage Commission Will Arrange so That Those Most Benefited Will Pay Largest Bills.—Commission Arranges a Satisfactory Assessment.

Charlotte.—The demur of property owners to the Sugar Creek drainage assessment recommended by assessment committee of the drainage commission resulted in a new tack in the matter. The commission agreed to appoint three men and to let them confer with three men named by the property owners in the selection of another commission of five to arrive at a satisfactory assessment to raise the fund required to complete the work begun in the creek bottom. This decision was reached following two hours of argument in the meeting.

The recommendation of the special commission on the valuation of benefits was that the lands along the creek be divided into four classes. The first class was to be taxed \$30 an acre, the second \$15 an acre, the third \$10 an acre and the fourth 75 cents an acre. The committee placed 492.58 acres under the first classification; 40.30 under the second; 41.21 under the third, and 2,718.87 under the fourth.

The discussion of the assessment was opened by Chairman J. R. Alexander of the commission. He spoke of the expense of the undertaking and stated that the commission needed the support of the property owners. Already about \$16,000 has been expended in the drainage of the creek bottom and the construction of the canal and the assessments made against property owners cannot be collected until the work is completed and the final levies made. He gave it as his opinion that the assessments proposed by the special committee in the matter were too high.

This proposition was put to the property owners present at the meeting and after a little private caucus they accepted the terms offered and agreed to abide by the decision of the board to be constituted as proposed. An agreement was drawn up and the commission signed it as did all the property owners present. The agreement will be circulated for the signatures of the other property owners and if all sign, the matter will be definitely settled.

The drainage commission is about \$16,000 in debt because of the work already done along the creek. Certain of the property owners, it was stated, stand ready to advance part of this money as loans to the commission to provide for the work to go forward without delay and to let the loans go as part payment of their assessments when the assessments are finally levied.

### Murdered Body Burned.

Barber's Junction.—Evidence before the coroner's jury and its findings thereon here are practically a substantiation of the first theory, the jury returning a verdict that Preston Lyerly, whose body was found in the smoldering ruins of H. T. Smithdeal's store recently came to death by a gunshot wound inflicted by an unknown person.

The most probable explanation of the charred body found in the smoldering ruins of H. T. Smithdeal's store seems to be that a robber or robbers, surprised by Manager Preston Lyerly in the act of rifling the safe killed the merchant, upset a kerosene oil tank, fired the store and fled with a small amount of money taken from the cash drawer.

### Farmers Hear Parker.

Louisburg.—In spite of the fact that it was the coldest day in the year, quite a large and enthusiastic body of men met in the court house recently to hear Mr. T. B. Parker, of Raleigh, late director of farmers' institutes, who was ably assisted by Mr. C. M. Garren, of Raleigh, who is also connected with the Department of Agriculture, as assistant agronomist.

### No Veal in Asheville.

Asheville.—Veal will be eliminated from the bills of fare of several of the local hotels, Asheville stewards who are members of the International Stewards Association having received letters from the office of the organization at Chicago requesting that they cease to serve veal for an indefinite length of time. In the letter it is stated that the present high price of beef is attributable to the scarcity of beef cattle which, in turn, is due to the slaughter of calves. It is hoped to decrease the veal demand.

## WILSON TALKS OF MEXICAN EVENTS

PRESIDENT LOOKS ON CARRANZA'S COURSE WITH SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

### WANT PEACE WITHOUT WAR

Officials Are Watching England's Steps in Regard to the Benton Affair—And Will Be Prepared to Act as Results Demand.

Washington.—President Wilson revealed to those who discussed Mexican affairs with him that he fully realized the gravity of the situation resulting from the killing of William S. Benton, a British subject, the reported murder of Gustav Bauch and Clemente Vergara, American citizens, and General Carranza's denial of the right of the United States to look after the interests of foreigners generally in Mexico.

The president spoke deplorably of armed intervention but at the same time pointedly referred to the size and power of a country like the United States as being sufficient warrant for a calm and patient course while compliance with the American demands was being sought. Callers got the impression from the president that he was determined to try every peaceful means at his disposal to solve the Mexican problem, but that he realized eventualities might mean a drastic course. He spoke with a firmness that showed his determination not to be stamped in action by radical speeches in Congress, but with a hint that when the necessity arose, the American government could be expected to move decisively and effectively.

Upon Great Britain's attitude toward the Benton case depends largely the extent to which the United States will become involved. Should England show an inclination to let the Benton case await final adjudication at a time when a firm government is established in Mexico, the United States will not feel called upon to challenge General Carranza's specific refusal to supply the Washington administration with information about Benton's death.

Representations have been made to General Carranza, it is understood, through American Consul Simpich at Nogales and on their outcome depends whether or not the expedition which had planned to go to Chihuahua from Juarez to examine Benton's body, will carry out its mission.

The Washington Administration, however, is taking it for granted that arrangements authorized by General Villa for the departure of the commission to Chihuahua soon will be approved by Carranza.

"We are waiting for the details to be completed," said Secretary Bryan. It was his only comment.

### Support Tolls Exemption.

Washington.—Announcing his support of President Wilson's policy to repeal the provision of the Panama canal act exempting American coastwise shipping from tolls, Senator Thornton, Democrat, of Louisiana, in a statement, said the President had informed him, "that in his judgment the repeal of the exemption clause is necessary for continuance of our present friendly relations with foreign Powers and the success of our foreign policies."

### Medical Officers Urged Amendment.

Washington.—Stress and strain of American life quickly develop latent insanity among immigrants, who become burdens to the states in which they have gone to live, according to statements before the Senate Immigration Committee by medical officers from New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland, who urged radical amendment of the pending immigration bill.

### Major Cannot be Colonel.

Washington.—Maj. Beecher B. Ray, an Army paymaster, lost his appeal in the courts here to compel President Wilson to nominate him for promotion to Colonel because of his seniority.

### Discuss the Situation.

El Paso, Texas.—The Benton investigation commission rested on the diplomatic side track here while Washington and Venustiano Carranza were reported to be rounding out the new phase of negotiations direct through an American Consul. George C. Carothers, special agent of the State Department, left here to visit Carranza. His mission is said to be a discussion of the general situation with regard to foreigners rather than to hold a specific conference over the Benton problem.