

THE PRESIDENT CAUSTIC

CONDEMNNS ADMIRAL BROWNSON

Chief Executive Declares Admiral's Conduct to Be Both Unseemly and Improper—Not Only Childish, But Also the Highest Degree of Regard-able to Permit Personal Plaque or Wounded Vanity to Interfere with Plain Duty—The President's Personal Views Are Set Forth in Two Letters—Admiral Brownson, Who the Latter Takes Good Care to Get to the Public—Admiral Brownson Has Nothing at All to Say.

Washington, Jan. 5.—President Roosevelt's attitude on the question of the command of hospital ships in the navy which resulted in the resignation of Rear Admiral Willard H. Brownson and, incidentally, some domestic observations on that incident and the controversies among the naval officers and their adherents as to details of naval construction and methods of training, were made known to-day when the president received the two letters from the President addressed to him on these subjects.

In the first of these letters, President Roosevelt, in plain, unadorned words condemns in unmeasured terms the act of Admiral Brownson, declaring it to be unseemly and improper. The question as to which Admiral Brownson took issue with the Navy Department the President declared is one as to which there can be entirely legitimate differences of opinion, but adds: "There is no room for difference of opinion as to the gross impropriety of the admiral's conduct in resigning sooner than carry out the orders of his superior officers in such a matter."

Regarding the controversies in the navy the President admits there are always and always will be defects to correct both in the construction of ships and in the organization and drill of the fleet. It is well, he says, that these facts be pointed out but it is also well that they should be pointed out without hysterical exaggeration or malicious misstatements. He caustically rebukes those guilty of exploiting them in grossly exaggerated form in the fancied interest of an individual or clique of individuals for the sake of supplying sensational material to newspapers. Because of "so much misrepresentation and exaggeration," the President says, he has directed Metcalf to a statement as to the exact facts concerning which there has been dispute, desiring particularly the opinion of Admiral Converse, former chief of the Navy Department, who because of his high professional attainments and standard of conduct the President considers peculiarly fitted to give judgment.

LETTER TO METCALF. The President's second letter to Mr. Metcalf is an argument to sustain his decision to assign medical officers to the command of hospital ships. He recalls an order of the Navy Department of December 12th, 1906, made by Secretary Bonaparte, directing that hospital ships be placed under command of a medical officer. Such ships, the President says, are not to be used as afloat, unless otherwise directed by Congress, be placed under the control and command of medical officers, their navigation being exclusively controlled by a competent sailing master having the complete responsibility for everything connected with the navigation of the ship.

KENTUCKY'S TOBACCO WAR

IT REACHES AN ACUTE STAGE

The Recent Raid on Russellville Brings to a Head a Condition Which Has Existed for Two Years—The Situation the Result of a Fight Between the Growers of Tobacco and the American Tobacco Trust, It is Declared, Has Suffered Less Than the Folks Who Have Placed Themselves Against the Trust Growers' Claims That Does Control the Market of Kentucky and Tennessee, Despite Statements Made by Witnesses.

Louisville, Ky., Jan. 5.—The raid on Russellville, Ky., early Friday morning by "night riders" which resulted in the destruction of nearly \$100,000 worth of property and the wounding of three persons; the refusal yesterday of the tobacco growers to accept the proposition of the American Tobacco Company for the purchase of tobacco and the announced intention of the growers to proceed against the American Tobacco Company in the courts, following Governor Wilson's statement that the law is not to be evaded, have brought to an acute stage a condition which has existed in Kentucky and Tennessee for two years. Conferences during the past two days at Frankfort between a representative of the American Tobacco Company and the tobacco growers have resulted only in transferring the matter to the heads of the company in New York for consideration.

The situation is the result of a fight of the growers of tobacco against the American Tobacco Company, and other purchasers and the present situation is best explained by the following recited in sequence of events in chronological order: The apparent passing of the leaf tobacco market in Kentucky and Tennessee into the control of the American Tobacco Company with the consequent elimination of nearly all the middlemen or independent tobacco buyers and re-handlers, and the awakening of the farmers to the situation and the formation by them of the American society of equity, and two subsidiary organizations, the burley (light-colored leaf) and the dark (heavy-colored leaf) tobacco association, with the purpose of producing and holding their crops until they could obtain what they held would be fair price from the American Tobacco Company and other buyers and re-handlers.

Third, the failure of the attempt by the farmers' societies to win over a sufficient majority of the growers of tobacco to their pooling plan to enable them to compel the company to buy their crops, and, fourth, the failure of the attempt by the farmers' societies to win over a sufficient majority of the growers of tobacco to their pooling plan to enable them to compel the company to buy their crops, and, fourth, the failure of the attempt by the farmers' societies to win over a sufficient majority of the growers of tobacco to their pooling plan to enable them to compel the company to buy their crops.

AS TO THE TRUST. As to the tobacco trust, so-called, it has suffered less in convenience than the men who have sold their leaf tobacco to it and less monetary loss than the men who have pooled their crops. Officers of the American Tobacco Company have, during the past few days, declared, under oath, at a New York hearing, that the company and its allied and subsidiary concerns do not control the tobacco trade of America.

TO "RUN OVER" CLEVELAND

IF HE ATTENDS CONVENTION

So Says Mayor Dahlgren, of Omaha, a Close Personal and Political Friend of William Jennings Bryan—The Report That the Honored Ex-President May Attend Democratic Convention as a Delegate From New Jersey Causes Consternation in the Ranks of the "Purplists" and His Influence Over Eastern and Southern Delegations Recognized as Being Great—Admission Made That His Presence Would Tend Toward Party Harmony.

Special to The Observer. Omaha, Neb., Jan. 5.—The report that Grover Cleveland may attend the Democratic national convention as a delegate from New Jersey is causing a great deal of uneasiness in the Bryan camp. Mr. Bryan himself is keeping very quiet on the subject and has not expressed himself, but his close personal and political friend, Mayor Dahlgren, of Omaha, is supposed to have expressed the sentiments of Bryan, when he said: "If Grover Cleveland comes to Denver and attempts to start something, he will surely be run over. I believe Cleveland has too much sense to attempt any coup at the convention."

While Bryan is not afraid of anything that Mr. Cleveland can do to the delegates from any of the Western States, he and his friends are apprehensive of his influence on the Eastern and some of the Southern delegations. Mr. Cleveland can say nothing, and Bryan feels perfectly secure of his Western delegations. But of the delegations from the Northwest, he is not so sure. There may come a time in the convention when a word or a speech from the ex-President might turn certain Northern delegations, who are behind some candidate more to the liking of those Democrats for whom Cleveland stands.

It is what Bryan fears from the presence of Cleveland in Denver, and if he and his friends can prevent the ex-President from attending the convention on the delegation from New Jersey it will be done. But at the same time that Mayor Dahlgren makes his threat to "run over" Cleveland, he also says that he will be glad to see Cleveland in Denver, or there will be trouble for the ex-President. Bryan is quiet on the subject. Bryan has kept mighty quiet on this Cleveland matter and he and his friends are hoping the ex-President will not be sent to Denver. While Bryan boasts that he throws a spear to the ex-President, he also says that no other man is authorized to speak for him, yet Dahlgren is known throughout the West as Bryan's "mouthpiece" and the mayor often makes statements concerning Bryan which are practically "official."

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NO PARDON FOR ALLEN

Mountaineer Serving Life Term Gets No Clemency From Pardon Board

Palmetto, S. C., Jan. 5.—The pardon board today rejected a petition for clemency for a mountaineer serving a life term in the State Prison for a robbery in Columbia. The report of the pardon board submitted to the Governor to-day contained a sad note for Walter Allen, the Greenville mountaineer life-term convict, who voluntarily returned to the penitentiary after running away from his conscriptive wife who had written him a pathetic letter about her condition. The report, whose recommendations were adopted throughout, said that after careful consideration of the case the members of the board saw no reason to recommend clemency. The report was a surprise to those who had kept Allen in the case. His running away was considered extremely foolish, as the pardon board, which then had his case under advisement, had informed that a pardon would be recommended.

The only case in which clemency is recommended is that of Dos Nelson, a Bamberg negro, whose death sentence had been commuted to a life term in the State Prison. Nelson was shot in a fight at a hot supper, was rolled till January 17th. Nelson will not hang, but will serve a life term instead. There were elements of self-defense in the case, and the case was recommended by the solicitor and many prominent Bamberg people, though the trial judge declined to recommend.

REVENUE FROM POSTOFFICES. Annual Report of First Assistant Postmaster General Hitchcock, Made Public Yesterday, Contains Interesting Facts and Figures. Washington, Jan. 5.—The annual report of First Assistant Postmaster General Hitchcock, made public yesterday, contains many interesting facts and figures. The revenues collected through the postoffices during the fiscal year 1906, he says amounted to about \$184,000,000, or about 15 percent more than the revenues of the fiscal year 1905. The revenues collected through the postoffices during the fiscal year 1906, he says amounted to about \$184,000,000, or about 15 percent more than the revenues of the fiscal year 1905.

VIOLATIONS OF LABOR LAW. New York State Authorities Disappointed at Outcome of the Efforts of the Labor Department. Albany, N. Y., Jan. 5.—In a statement given out by the labor department, it is stated that the labor department, which has a resume of violations of the labor law, particularly child labor cases, brought into court during the three months ending December 31st, has obtained 7, 3 were withdrawn by the department and 14 were dismissed.

THE "BIG FOUR" SLATED. Root, Cortislow Black and Woodruff Will Probably Be New York's Delegates to the Republican State Convention. New York, Jan. 5.—The Tribune to-day says: "While the list is subject to change, like other political States, the plan of the organization leaders is that the 'Big Four' elected by the Republican State convention will be Elihu Root, Secretary of State; George B. Cortislow, Secretary of the Treasury; ex-Governor Frank S. Black; and Timothy L. Woodruff, chairman of the State committee."

NEWS OF STATE CAPITAL

GLENN THANKS GOV. HUGHES

A Letter is Written the Chief Executive of the Empire State Commending His Refusal to Accept Bonds of State Printing—Number of Institutions Report Benefactions From Mrs. Capehart—Mineral Department of State Museum Being Greatly Improved—Mr. Lacy's Health Improving—Mrs. Capehart's Benefactions—Crazy Man Has Two Wives Who Draw Pensions.

MRS. CAPEHART'S BENEFACTIONS. Mrs. L. C. Capehart, a daughter of the late B. F. Moore, of this city, who died this week, gives to Rex Hospital here \$1,500 as a memorial to her mother, who was Lacy's wife. Mrs. Capehart's benefactions to St. Luke's Home for Aged Women at Raleigh \$1,000. Her estate is valued at \$75,000 and is mainly divided among five brothers and sisters.

A CURIOUS CASE. There is a very curious case in the insane hospital here, that of a patient who has been moved to the eastern part of the State during the civil war, deserted and joined the Federal army and married in Philadelphia. His wives are now living and his pension is divided equally between the two. He has no mind at all. Perhaps it is the only case of the kind in the country. One quarter the Pension Bureau sends a warrant for \$36 to the North Carolina State Bank, but the money goes to the Pennsylvania wife.

THE ARMORED CRUISER ARRIVES AT ROCKLAND—STANDARDIZATION TRIAL TO-DAY. Rockland, Me., Jan. 5.—The armored cruiser North Carolina, built by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, arrived here to-day. While running for a short time under forced draught the cruiser averaged nearly the required speed of 22 knots.

THE METAL INDUSTRY. The metal industry, including the mining, shows a notable increase compared with previous years. The total tonnage of iron produced by the Alabama furnaces during 1907 will aggregate about 1,750,000 tons, with a value of \$22,000,000. The total tonnage of steel produced during 1907 will aggregate about 1,500,000 tons, with a value of \$20,000,000.

PROGRESS OF THE SOUTH

VALUE OF ITS LEADING CROPS

The Rice Crop Five Times Greater the Past Year and the Corn Crop Has Increased Nearly 50 Percent. The Wonderful Growth of the Cotton Crop the Subject of Extended Comment—The Metal Industry, Notably Pig Iron, Shows Unusual Increase in Tennessee and Kentucky—Rapid Strides the South is Making set North in the Annual Statement of the Tradesman's Review—Authentic Facts and Figures.

PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURE. During the last five years, however, agriculture has made such progress in the Southern States, that the corn crop has increased nearly 50 percent, the rice crop as five times greater, while as already stated, the cotton crop has enlarged 25 percent in a single year. In 1907 the value of products of vegetable gardens of the South fully \$150,000,000.

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THE THAW TRIAL TO-DAY

MAY BAR WIVES TESTIMONY

The District Attorney Has, as Yet, Not Declared Himself on the Point, But It May Be Objected That Evelyn Nesbit Thaw is Offered as a Witness in the Second Trial of Her Husband, Which Begins To-Day—Mrs. Thaw's Testimony Had Much to Do With Her Resignation in the First Trial—Stole Laid Down in the Thaw Case Has Served as a Precedent in Another Famous Trial—The Variance in the Two Cases Pointed Out by Lawyers of the New York, Jan. 5.—On the eve of the second trial of Harry K. Thaw, which will begin to-morrow before Judge Victor Dowling, of the Supreme Court, comes the report that District Attorney Jerome may attempt this time to bar the testimony of Mrs. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, wife of the accused man. At the first trial this testimony was allowed to go before the jury with the consent of the district attorney. Several criminal lawyers, of prominence in their profession, have argued the point with Mr. Jerome, and that they sought the first hearing and have urged him to oppose this line of testimony at the trial about to begin.

THE FIRST TRIAL. Young Mrs. Thaw was allowed to testify at the first trial upon the theory that it was her story, told to Thaw in Paris in 1903, two years before their marriage, that planted the seed of insanity in his mind. The prosecution was not allowed to test the truth or falsity of the story; the court rule being that regardless of its truth, the issue had to do solely with the defendant's defendant's mind. Mr. Jerome offered witnesses who, he declared, would contradict certain of the girl-wife's statements, but they were not allowed to do so because of the rule that only occur in a severe cross-examination, but even this was allowed only on the ground of testing the credibility of the witness in a general way.

TO DRAW FOR ROOMS. A Lottery Assignment of Members of the House in the New Office Building—Drawing to Take Place Thursday. Washington, Jan. 5.—An unique feature of the proceedings in the House of Representatives will be the assignment of members, by lottery, of room in the \$3,000,000 House building, now about completed. The drawing will be held on Thursday, January 9th, immediately after the reading of the Journal. Three hundred and thirty-three members consecutively numbered from 1 up to 333 will be placed in a box, and each in turn is drawn out by a blindfolded page and handed to the reading clerk. His number will be announced. The member whose number on a prepared list corresponds with that on the page will come forward to the desk and select by diagram a room from among the 337 offices into which the second trial of Harry K. Thaw, which will begin to-morrow before Judge Victor Dowling, of the Supreme Court, comes the report that District Attorney Jerome may attempt this time to bar the testimony of Mrs. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, wife of the accused man.

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