

JEROME IS REDDY TO ACT

MAY TAKE OVER LABEL HEARING
In a letter to Federal Attorney Stinson the New York District Attorney shows the possibility of the Federal authorities having to stand aside in the Panama label investigation—Action should properly be brought in the New York State Courts—Fact That Hearings at Washington Have Been Suspended Until Monday Regarded as Significant.

New York, Jan. 26.—The possibility of the Federal authorities having to stand aside to permit the State and County of New York to proceed against the publishers of the New York World for the alleged libel in connection with the Panama label investigation—Action should properly be brought in the New York State Courts—Fact That Hearings at Washington Have Been Suspended Until Monday Regarded as Significant.

PLAINLY A LIBEL.
The publication has a much wider general importance than is found in most libels. It is in substance charges that by corrupt and dishonorable, if not criminal means, the Treasury of the United States was depleted to the extent of \$25,000,000 through the connivance, to give it no harsher description, of some of the chief officers of the State, and that the great sum was divided among government favorites in the world of politics and finance.

ROBINSON CHIEF VICTIM.
While the whole of the United States have been injured by the publication of such false and libelous matter, the people of this State have received a distinct and more serious injury, in that one of its citizens, Douglas Robinson, has had false matter published about him to the community in which he lives and is respected, the direct purpose and tendency of which is to brand him as a dishonest and dishonest man and one who was willing to trade upon the honor of his brother-in-law, the President of the United States.

"This offense I am loath to allow to pass unpunished, or at least without an effort to properly punish it. Therefore, should Mr. Robinson express to me his wish to have an action for criminal libel instituted, I shall institute such action, provided I may do so without an undue interference with a matter over which the Federal courts have jurisdiction, and in which the action has already been taken by the Federal authorities."

Taken in connection with the fact that hearings to-day before the Federal grand jury were adjourned until next Monday afternoon, it is believed that the case at issue but one witness, John E. Wiley, reporter for the New York American, had been examined. Mr. Jerome's letter is believed by many to augur the suspension, momentarily at least, of the Federal inquiries and the early inception of an inquiry by the State.

DOINGS AT DAVIDSON.

The Two Speakers for the Debate With Wake Forest—Junior Oratorical Club February 25th-27th Number of Citizens Move to Virginia.
Special to The Observer.
Davidson, Jan. 26.—Messrs. S. A. Linley and R. A. McLeod were selected Saturday evening to represent Davidson in the joint debate to take place with Wake Forest at Easter. Dr. W. H. White and Robert K. Brown were chosen alternates. Mr. Willie, intercollegiate secretary of the Y. M. C. A., was here to-day holding conferences with the teachers and committees of the Bible and mission classes of the association.

There seems to be something of an exodus of Davidsons, or those in the near neighborhood, to Chase City, Va. Mr. J. Mac Brown was the first member of land in that section, says Mr. E. C. Sweet, who is an owner of a part of the Barringer plantation, has decided to sell here and has already bought a farm of 50 acres in Virginia. Mr. T. F. Johnson is another who has family goods in Virginia, and Mr. Charles Moody will also move there. Mr. Moore has sold his farm northeast of Davidson to Mr. J. E. Gibbs.

CALDWELL FUGITIVE ARRESTED.

Fred Gaither, a Negro, Wanted For Attempted Rape, in Custody at Knoxville, Tenn.
Special to The Observer.
Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 26.—Fred Gaither, a negro alleged to be wanted in Lenoir, Caldwell county, N. C., for attempted rape, was arrested here to-day by Deputy Sheriffs Saffridge and Kirby. The officers arrested Gaither for carrying weapons and later learned that he is badly wanted in North Carolina. They wired the sheriff of Caldwell county to ascertain if Gaither is wanted there, and Sheriff J. M. Smith responded that he holds a capias for Gaither's arrest. Gaither is said to have broken into a girls' school at night, some two years ago.

FURMAN'S HEAD HONOR GUEST.

Ashville Y. M. C. A. Has Wed. Known Speakers at Banquet.
Special to The Observer.
Ashville, Jan. 26.—The banquet at the Y. M. C. A. to-night complimentary to the sustaining and contributing members of the association was largely attended and interesting. Dr. Poteat, president of Furman University, was the guest of the occasion and the principal speaker. Among the other speakers were Judge J. C. Pritchard, President John H. Carter of the American National Bank; President J. C. Martin, of the local association; Mr. W. T. Perkins, of New York, one of the international secretaries and international secretary of the association; and Mr. W. T. McCoy, of Charlotte. The addresses were on timely subjects with reference to the work that the association is doing and were interesting. Tomorrow the local association starts a four-day campaign for subscriptions for the work of the association this year. Special to The Observer.

SPEAKER THE BOSS GRAPTOR.

Blocked by Cannon, Member From Kansas Wants to Know What Any Individual Member Can Do Toward Discharging His Duty in the House—Asks Some Pertinent Questions.
Washington, Jan. 26.—"Under the control of the speaker of the House and the enormous power with which he is armed, can the individual member properly discharge his duties to the nation?"

This was the query propounded to-day by Mr. Murdoch, of Kansas, in the course of a speech in the House of Representatives. Mr. Murdoch proposed four concrete propositions. In one he cited a case in which, he said, a secret service agent under a congressional commission, had been paid over \$28 a day, which, he said, was an outrageous sum, and the second one, in which for twenty-three years the president of the Michigan Central Railroad had been paid \$1,000 a year as a mail messenger to make up pay for transportation of mails on railroads, which Mr. Murdoch said could not be done under the law. As a third instance he charged that an excess payment of \$35,000 a year had been made to the Eads bridge at St. Louis for mail charges. The fourth was the payment by the House of Representatives itself of \$500 a year for a trivial clerical duty. "And now," he said, "I challenge any member of this body who is not a chairman of an appropriation committee, to secure a correction through congressional action in these four items I have cited over the opposition of the speaker of the House, without his consent, or that of any of the chairmen."

He would, he declared, at a later day attempt to bring about a reform in this regard, "but with no hope of success."

LONG SPUR TO BE BUILT.

Southern to Construct Track to Big Casket Company's Plant.

Ashville, Jan. 26.—Contractor Murray, holding a contract from the Southern for the building of a line of railway from what is known as "Casket station" on the French Broad, to Asheville, on the east side of the river, is here to-day and making arrangements for teams and rock to commence work. The line of railway will be constructed to accommodate the National Casket Company, which has decided to locate its Southern plant a mile below Asheville on the east side of the river. The railway line will be two or three miles in length. It is expected, according to board of trade officials, that two other manufacturing plants will be located in the vicinity of the casket company's plant before the end of the year. The casket company will get to work on the construction of its plant within 60 days.

Gompers and Company Ordered to Pay Costs.

Washington, Jan. 26.—President Samuel Gompers, Vice President John Mitchell and Secretary Frank Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, who were recently adjudged in contempt of court and sentenced to terms of imprisonment in the District of Columbia jail, were today ordered by Justice Wright, of the District Supreme Court, to pay the costs incurred in the proceedings which resulted in the sentence for contempt. The costs aggregate about \$150.

Statutory Prohibition Killed in Texas.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Jan. 26.—A Union Pacific train known as the Oregon express, west-bound, struck a broken rail 15 miles west of here to-day. Five coaches are in the ditch. Two persons are reported killed and twenty injured.

"Prairie Schooners" Continue to Roll In.

Winston-Salem, Jan. 26.—Heavy to-bacco sales at high prices, which is to say prices which have prevailed on this market since the season started last fall, continued to-day. The growers are well pleased. Tomorrow a sales will be heavy also. A great quantity of the leaf is being shipped here, supplementing material by the bumper loads which the "prairie schooners" bring in.

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"OLD COW CROSSED ROAD" BUT Went Mad, Tried in Vain to Go Through House, Then Died.
Special to The Observer.
Asheville, Jan. 26.—Some excitement was created on Orchard street here yesterday afternoon when a cow belonging to Mr. W. R. Williams attempted to run through its own home. The animal succeeded in getting half its body through a window and would have gone on through but for the fact that it struck a piano, broke both horns and set the musical instrument on end in the middle of the floor. The cow managed to scramble back through the window and in 20 minutes died. Several of those who witnessed the incident declare that the animal was suffering from hydrophobia.

Guffey of National Committee.
Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 26.—James M. Guffey, the Pittsburg oil magnate, was to-day unanimously chosen as the Pennsylvania member of the Democratic national committee to succeed James Kerr, deceased.

Oregon Legislators Balk at Hatpins.
Salem, Ore., Jan. 26.—A bill prohibiting the wearing of hat pins more than ten inches long was passed by the Oregon House of Representatives to-day.

Shelby Youth Charged With Robbing Cash Box at Pay Station.
Special to The Observer.
Shelby, Jan. 26.—L. J. Pope, Jr., son of L. J. Pope, a well-known citizen of Shelby, is under arrest on a serious charge, robbing the cash box of the pay station of the Piedmont Telephone Company, which is situated over the Central Hotel. The amount stolen was \$13. The robbery was committed Friday afternoon. The arrest was made Sunday afternoon, suspicion being very strong against young Pope. The preliminary hearing was held Monday afternoon, by Mayor Buttle, bond being fixed at \$20.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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FLEET RETURNS THURSDAY.

Sixteen American Battleships Will Turn Their Prows Toward America After Coaling on North Coast of Morocco.

Nice, Jan. 26.—The entire American fleet of sixteen battleships will be plowing the Mediterranean westward on Thursday, headed for Tetuan Bay, on the north coast of Morocco, where it will reassemble on January 31st to coal and provision for the homeward journey.

The division under Rear Admiral Easton Schroeder, composed of the Missouri, Ohio, Louisiana and Virginia, have already left Smyrna. The Georgia and Nebraska, part of the second division Rear Admiral Richard Mainwring in command, sailed to-day from Marseilles for Tangier, under instructions to salute the flag of the new Sultan of Morocco. The other two battleships of this division, the New Jersey and Rhode Island, will weigh anchor to-morrow.

The first division of the fleet, made up of Rear Admiral Sperry's flagship Connecticut, the Kansas, Minnesota and Vermont, now at Villefranche, will steam out of that port to-morrow, and on Thursday the fourth division, under Rear Admiral William P. Potter, composed of the Wisconsin, Illinois, Kearsarge and Kentucky, will take their departure from Algiers.

Statutory Prohibition Killed.

Austin, Tex., Jan. 26.—In the Senate this afternoon judiciary committee Number 2 killed by a vote of 6 to 1 the Senate bill providing for the establishment of statutory prohibition in Texas. This effectively terminates that feature of the prohibition fight in the Texas Legislature, but it still leaves the State-wide prohibition submission bill pending, which is vigorously debated in the Senate day by day. A bill providing that no liquor shall be sold within 10 miles of any school house is pending in the House.

Inauguration of Pullman Chair Car Service on Trains 37 and 38 Between Greensboro and Montgomery.

Effective January 25th, Southern Railway announces the inauguration of Pullman chair car service on trains 37 and 38 between Greensboro and Montgomery. For further information call on your depot agent. R. L. VERNON, T. P. A.

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