

MESSAGE IS PLACED SHORTLY AFTER SENATE AND HOUSE MET, BEFORE CONGRESS

Mr. Taft Does not Look With Favor upon the Proposed Investigation of the Sugar Scandal.

THE REVISION INSURGENTS GET VERY LITTLE COMFORT

There is Much Talk About Economy, and Even a Partial Promise of a Treasury Balance.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Today's session of both houses of congress were devoted almost exclusively to the reading of President Taft's first annual message.

The message was presented in both houses by Secretary Latta and in both cases was received shortly after 12 noon.

While the secretary of the senate read the president's words, many senators hastened over the pamphlet, hunting subjects in which they were especially interested.

Secretary Latta entered the house at 12:14, bearing the president's communication. There was a scramble on the part of members to obtain the first copies of the document.

At 1:40 p. m. the reading of the message was concluded in the house and that body adjourned until Friday.

Opposition to the proposed immediate congressional investigation of the sugar import scandals in the New York custom house, and likewise to any further revision of the tariff at present, absence of any specific recommendation regarding the crisis in Nicaragua, and actual recommendation of legislation to forbid the issuance of judicial injunctions in labor without notice in labor controversies and for the establishment of a system of postal savings banks may be considered the most striking features of the first annual message of President Taft to congress.

The Nicaraguan question, conservation of the nation's natural resources, needed amendments to the anti-trust and interstate commerce acts, and the contemplated revision of the federal statistics governing the organization of the armed forces of the nation in time of war are all reserved for possible treatment later in special messages.

In his message, which bulks some 17,000 words, Mr. Taft reports the country to be "in a high state of prosperity" and he adds that "there is every reason to believe that we are on the eve of a substantial business expansion, and we have just garnered a harvest unexampled in the market value of our agricultural products."

Construction of an artificial island and fortification in the entrance to Chesapeake bay, two battleships and one repair ship for the navy and the establishment of an extensive naval base at Pearl Islands, Hawaii.

A national bureau of health, Statehood for New Mexico and Arizona, and an appointive governor and executive council for Alaska.

Civil control of the lighthouse board and reparation of the national astronomical observatory from naval control.

Celebration in 1913 of the semi-centennial of negro emancipation, and reimbursement of the depositors of the defunct Freedmans Trust and Savings company.

Consolidation of the bureaus of manufactures and statistics in the department of commerce and labor.

Appropriation for the remodeling of the District of Columbia jail.

Calling affairs brought about by the summary execution in Nicaragua of two Americans, the president announces that this government has terminated diplomatic relations with the Belayan administration in Nicaragua and intends to take such further steps as may be found most "consistent with its dignity, its duty to American interests and its moral obligation to Central American and to civilization."

In opposing any immediate investigation of the New York custom house scandal the president takes the ground that such investigation, "might by giving immunity and otherwise, prove an embarrassment in securing conviction of the guilty parties."

Financial Matters.—A proposal submitted by the secretary of the treasury that the executive departments deficit for the current fiscal year—estimated at \$72,075,620—be met by the issuance of Panama bonds authorized by congress, is approved by the president. He explains that in order to avoid a deficit for the ensuing fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, estimate have been cut to the bone and instead of a deficit there will be a surplus of \$35,351,000, excluding payments on the Panama canal which are expected to be taken care of by bonds.

The president records with pleasure the satisfactory arrangement made for the arbitration of the important North American fisheries issue with Canada and the successful prosecution of the work of the commissions adjusting other boundary issues and the lake fisheries. He urges an international conference to devise measures for the protection of fur seals. He is hopeful of a happy adjustment of the Congo question and expresses his desire to afford a larger measure of protection to the little negro state of Liberia. Satisfaction is expressed with the declaration by Japan and Russia in favor of the "open door" and appropriate action taken for the expansion of the Pan-American congress to be held in Buenos Ayres and for participation in the Belgian exposition.

Oil, Not Guilty.—Austin, Tex., Dec. 7.—The jury in the case of H. Clay Pierce, charged with false swearing, returned a verdict here today of not guilty.

The chief contention of the defense in the trial of Pierce for alleged false swearing and perjury, after the presiding judge overruled all arguments as to the illegality of the affidavit, was that the state sought to hold Pierce responsible for confessions made on the witness stand under the immunity clause of Missouri, which in connection with the Texas law of 1907, granting a like immunity, exonerated the defendant from any responsibility in connection with his narrative as to the history of the Waters-Pierce Oil company and its association with the Standard Oil company or any other company.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 7.—A flash of flame in the picking room of Robinson & Roden's feather factory today stampeded 60 employes in the building. Several jumped to the street from high windows.

The quick blazing up of inflammable material caused serious burns upon four persons, three of them young women. All will recover.

President Makes 1200 Nominations.—Washington, Dec. 7.—President Taft today sent to the senate 1200 nominations to federal offices. The greater part of the list is made up of postmasters and census supervisors.



New York Herald and The Gazette-News. AMERICAN HOUSE OF LORDS A LITTLE WORRIED, TOO

MOB SURROUNDS A KENTUCKY JAIL

Crowd of Men at Williamstown Threatens to Lynch a Negro, Charged With Assault.

Williamstown, Ky., Dec. 7.—When Earl Thompson, a negro, charged with assaulting Mrs. Maggie Roberts, was brought here today a mob surrounded the jail, and Sheriff Michael Custer and two deputies, with drawn revolvers, rushed the prisoner into the depot, out the back door, up the street and to the jail. The mob followed, hooting and yelling, "Lynch him." A crowd of men now surrounds the jail, and the mob leaders declare the negro will be lynched if the grand jury fails to indict him.

ALL NOW QUIET SAY THE STRIKERS

The Men Assert They Have Roads Tied up, but Road Officials Deny the Assertion.

St. Paul, Dec. 7.—"Everything is quiet," was the comment of President Hawley of the Switchmen's union on the strike situation. The men continue to assert that they have the railroads tied up, but the railroads claim the strike is broken.

L. E. Shepperd, president of the Railway Conductors, issued orders last night to all conductors that they must observe strict neutrality.

GERMAN PRINCE RENOUNCES HIS RANK AND ITS PRIVILEGES He Had Married a Middle Class Woman, a Family Law Demands This Action.

Berlin, Dec. 7.—Prince Frederick von Wittgenstein has renounced his princely rank with all privileges associated with it. This fact is gazetted today. The renunciation was at the direction of other male members of the family.

A law of family, established in 1907, provides that any member marrying beneath his rank loses his inherited right and title. In 1902 Frederick married Marie Vartling, a woman of middle class.

New York, Dec. 7.—William Astor Draxton, nephew of John Jacob Astor, was blackjacked and robbed this morning, while returning from a social affair. The policemen found Draxton unconscious.

THE WEATHER: Forecasts until 3 p. m. Wednesday for Asheville and vicinity: Clearing and colder tonight; Wednesday fair and colder.

TALK PROSPERITY FOR SUNNY SOUTH

A Number of Interesting Things, Several of Them, However, Not Altogether New, Said by Distinguished Speakers at the Day's Session of Southern Commercial Congress.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Opportunities for clearing the decks for the most wonderful activities in the south," declared a recapitulation of its vast resources were presented before the Southern Commercial congress at its opening meeting today.

That the cotton crop of the south is the mainstay of all financial institutions of this country, and is in no way involved as a sectional question, was declared by Harvey Jordan, president of Southern Cotton association, who opened the first session as its chairman. Mr. Jordan said that formerly the necessities of the world required the doubling of the cotton crop every 15 years, but that since 1902 cotton production in the south seemed to have reached a standstill. He reviewed the history of cotton production for the past 35 years and spoke of the future prospects of the south relative to cotton production. Incidentally introducing some statistics, he added that if half the ratio held good for the next 30 years the demand for cotton by the southern mills would be vastly increased.

An Obvious Fact.—"If more of the farmers of the south would redouble their efforts the product could greatly be increased." With this statement G. W. Kerner, commissioner of agriculture of Virginia, made a plea for increased energy on the part of the agriculturists of the south. He said no section of the globe offers greater opportunities for investment than the south, and spoke particularly of his own state, of which he has intimate knowledge as to its resources and possibilities.

"Big with promise are the opportunities of the southland with its genial climate and genial people," this was the sentiment conveyed to the congress by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Hayek. "Science and education combined with the new spirit of the times," said Mr. Hayes.

"Wet" vs. "Dry" in Charlottesville.—Charlottesville, Va., Dec. 7.—After a lively campaign between the "wets" and the "drys," Charlottesville is today voting on the question whether license for the sale of liquor shall be granted here.

"Young Tug" Wilson Shot in Madison Square Garden

New York, Dec. 7.—The big crowds attending the bicycle races in Madison Square Garden were thrown into a state of wild excitement today when "Young Tug" Wilson, a pugilist, seated in a box, was shot, probably fatally. Bert Keys, also a fighter, was arrested, accused of firing the shot.

Members of Black Hand Are Headed This Way

Geneva, Dec. 7.—The police declare in America. It develops that 60 of these characters, 49 of whom were expelled from Switzerland, are making their way to the United States by circuitous routes.

TESTIMONY BEING PATCHED TOGETHER

But the Probers into the Death of Mrs. Ocey Snead Are Admittedly at Sea.

POVERTY AND FAMILY PRIDE THE REASONS FOR IT ALL So Assers Franklin Fort, the Attorney For Miss Virginia Wardlaw, Now Under Arrest.

New York, Dec. 7.—Probers into the death of Mrs. Ocey Snead, the southern girl victim in the bath tub mystery, are still at a loss for evidence placing direct responsibility for her strange death. Piece by piece shreds of testimony are being patched together in the effort to show a strong motive behind the alleged murder.

The postponed hearing of Miss Virginia Wardlaw, the victim's aunt, charged with the crime, occurs late this week.

The whereabouts of Mrs. Caroline E. Martin, mother of the dead girl, have not been revealed. It is understood she is in Roanoke, Va. Mrs. Martin's failure to appear since the tragedy is one of the puzzling features of the case to the authorities.

Poverty and family pride have been the reasons for it all," said Franklin Fort, Jr., today in defense of his client, Miss Virginia Wardlaw, who is now held at East Orange, N. J., charged with the murder of her niece, Mrs. Ocey W. Snead. "You can get some idea of the force pride of these southern women when I tell you that from last Tuesday until Saturday Miss Wardlaw's sister and mother lived on loaves of bread until help was forced on them.

"When I found that John Wardlaw, Princeton, 77, was Miss Wardlaw's brother, she implored me in her cell not to seek help from her friends.

"Don't," she sobbed, "let it be known that a sister of John Wardlaw was sent to jail accused of a crime."

Mrs. Henry S. Kane told the police that Miss Wardlaw called at her house in answer to an advertisement and inquired as to the terms of the rent and whether the house had a good sized bath tub. She wished, Mrs. Kane said, to move in at night and insisted that none of the Kane family should visit the house after she had been given possession. The police think this information significant in view of the fact that Mrs. Snead's body was found in a half-filled bath tub.

Nothing further has yet been learned of the whereabouts of Fletcher, the missing husband, or of Mrs. Martin, Miss Wardlaw's sister and the mother of Mrs. Snead.

IN GREAT HURRY TO DON STRIPES

A Randolph County Man, Under Sentence, Gives the Penitentiary Authorities a Surprise.

THE ELECTRIC CHAIR WILL SOON BE THERE

Col. Cunningham, One of the Best Known Tobacco Growers in State, Adjudged a Bankrupt.

The Gazette-News Bureau, Chamber of Commerce Rooms, Holloman Building.

Raleigh, Dec. 7.—The penitentiary authorities had a very singular experience when a man who said his name was Record, from Randolph county, made his appearance at the prison, accompanied by a man who said he was his bondsman, and asked to be received as a convict, to serve twelve months. Record said he had been sentenced for that term, but had appealed, and that the Supreme court had decided against him. He declared that he came voluntarily because he did not want to wait for the sheriff, but desired to begin his term at once. He had no papers and the officials declined to receive him, and this refusal appeared to give him no little concern. This is the first case of the kind on record, the penitentiary authorities say. Early in the year a man came there for admission as a convict, but he brought the proper papers with him.

Taxes Not Paid. Stage Treasurer Lacy says he is very much concerned about the failure of most sheriffs to pay the taxes. He says that usually this time of year a receipt daily runs from fifteen thousand dollars, and now they are only about one thousand dollars. After the fifteenth of this month the pension warrants will come pouring in. These amount \$15,000 to \$40,000 a day. Treasurer Lacy declares that the sheriffs are making settlements more slowly than ever before since he has been in office. Section 84 of the Revenue act makes it a misdemeanor for sheriffs not to settle each month. As a matter of fact this law has never been enforced.

Victor H. Jordan, referee in bankruptcy, has signed an order adjudicating Col. John S. Cunningham of Person county, a bankrupt, the assets being set out as amounting to \$6,000, the liabilities \$21,000. Col. Cunningham has for a number of years been widely known in public life, and as a notable grower of tobacco. The first meeting of creditors is ordered to be held Dec. 26th at Roxboro.

A bill of the electric chair has been received by the penitentiary authorities, but the chair is said to have not yet arrived, though it is confidently expected this week, and the experts will put it in shape for use.

Asheville Lawyers There. The Supreme court this week hears 15th District appeals, there being only five. State vs. Swink; in the matter of Turner Power Co. vs. Commissioners; Curtis vs. Railroad and Staden vs. Vance. The following lawyers are: Locke Craig, Thomas A. Jones, Thomas A. Rollins, Frank Carter and Zeb Curtis.

JOHN DREW GETS A FALL AND IS SERIOUSLY HURT

Thrown From Horse, and Trampled by the Animal—Extent of Injuries Unknown.

New York, Dec. 7.—John Drew, the actor, was thrown from a horse, while riding with his daughter in Central Park today, and seriously injured. The horse trampled on a actor.

A passing automobile picked up Drew and hurried to a hospital. The extent of his injuries is not known. While the doctors are unable to determine the full extent of Drew's injuries, it is announced that he sustained a severe fracture of the left shoulder. It is feared he was injured internally.

They Slow Down a Bit. New York, Dec. 7.—After keeping up the grinding pace all night, the six-day bicycle riders in Madison Square Garden slowed down slightly this morning. Fourteen teams remain in the race. Four thousand people remained in the garden over night. The surviving teams are in fairly good shape.

Positions of the Teams. At 11 o'clock the leaders had pedaled 718 2-5 miles. The standing at that hour was McFarland and Clark, Rutt and Stal, Root and Fogler, Lawson and Demar, Walthour and Collins, Mitten and West, Cameron and Krebs, Halstead and Lawrence, Pye and Hehir, Galvin and Keegan, Anderson and Vannoni, Hill and Stein, Germain and Casarpe.

Habeas Corpus Denied Sanchez. Buffalo, Dec. 7.—Justice Marcus has denied the application for a writ of habeas corpus in the case of J. E. Sanchez, wanted in Savannah to answer a charge of larceny and subornation. Sanchez will be taken to Savannah by Sheriff Minkley.