

THE DIRECTORS OF PHILADELPHIA RAPID TRANSIT COMPANY IN SESSION TODAY

They Took Under Advisement the Proposal of the Strikers to Arbitrate Differences.

ORGANIZED LABOR GOING AHEAD WITH STRIKE PLANS

Chief of Police Declares That Not More Than Twenty Thousand Men Are Willing to Quit Work.

Philadelphia, March 4.—The board of directors of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company met this morning to consider the striking car men's offer to join in petitioning the court of common pleas for the appointment of a board of arbitration to adjust differences.

Chief of Police Clay declares that if the proposed general strike goes into effect tonight, as threatened, not more than 20,000 men will quit work.

No official announcement was made as to what action the Traction company will take on the latest proposition of the union to arbitrate their differences.

For the first time in five years the citizens were excluded from the sessions of their chosen representatives yesterday afternoon.

The strike was practically ignored by both bodies. A message from Mayor Reburn reviewed the situation briefly and stated his policy of non-interference in these words:

"It is not the city's duty nor yours nor mine to interfere between the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company and its employees. The courts of law are available for the redress of any real grievance which either may have against the other. No reason exists nor can exist, in proper cases, why they and another disputants should not submit their differences to the courts or adjust their disputes between themselves."

That the councils were in entire accord with the views of the mayor in the foregoing was made evident by the absence of any action or discussion relative to the crisis. Several petitions from business men's associations and trade organizations, bearing on the strike were heard without comment.

In select council, Thomas MacFarland presented a resolution instructing Mayor Reburn, William H. Carpenter and George E. Barle, the city's representatives on the Philadelphia Transit company board of directors, to demand a submission of the company to arbitration, and directing, in the event of their refusal to obey these instructions, that they be asked to resign.

Councilman Henry J. Trainer forestalled debate upon the resolution by immediately moving that it be tabled. The motion to table was carried with only a few dissenting votes.

MacFarland twice attempted thereafter to gain the privilege of the floor in order to present another resolution but President Hazel refused to recognize him. This resolution satirically called upon "our peerless leader, Contractor James P. McNicholl, who is now sojourning in sunny Florida, under the sheltering palms, in company with certain influential republicans, democratic members of councils and the founders of the workmen's league party, to immediately return and issue the necessary orders to Reburn and Clay to change their blithering attitude."

Director of public safety Clay wrote the president of the builders exchange directing that all building materials near places in course of erection be removed from the streets. This is to prevent riotous persons from securing missiles for use against the police and street cars.

How determined is the attitude of the Rapid Transit company against any compromise measure in the present controversy was set forth by William H. Shalmerdine, a director of the corporation. He said:

"It is evident that it would be the easy and cheap course for the company to compromise now. But it would also be the unwise and cowardly thing to do, and the board to a man is opposed to any settlement that does not insure peace for the future on a basis that embodies recognition of the fundamental rights of the public and the company."

That the city authorities intend to push this case with all the speed possible, was shown when the grand jury returned indictments against

MOREHEAD'S BILL TO DRAIN SWAMPS

Object Is to Secure Federal Aid in the Reclaiming Rich Southern Swamp Lands.

The Gazette-News Bureau, 46 Post Building, Washington, March 4.

The favorable consideration by congress of a bill providing a bond issue of \$30,000,000 for the reclamation of arid lands in the west has served to draw attention to the neglect of the enormously rich and undeveloped swamp lands in the eastern, southern, and southwestern sections of the country.

Members of congress have been discussing the question of federal aid in the reclamation of these swamp lands, and many of them take the position that it is only right and equitable for the federal government to aid in their reclamation similarly as it has done and is doing in the reclamation of the arid lands of the west.

With the object of securing from the federal government its help in draining swamp lands of the south Representative Morehead of North Carolina has introduced a bill appropriating the receipts from the sale and disposal of public lands in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Missouri, Wisconsin and other states, which are to be set aside as a "drainage fund," and are to be used under the direction of the secretary of the interior, in the drainage of swamp and overflowed lands.

Some of its provisions. Under the terms of the bill introduced by Mr. Morehead it will be possible to apply the "drainage fund" for the drainage of swamp lands in states like North Carolina and Virginia where the un-reclaimed lands are privately owned.

Under the terms of the bill introduced by Mr. Morehead it will be possible to apply the "drainage fund" for the drainage of swamp lands in states like North Carolina and Virginia where the un-reclaimed lands are privately owned. In this connection Mr. Morehead's bill provides, "That where there are lands in North Carolina, Virginia, and any other state not owned or held by the United States which are swamp or overflowed lands, and it shall be made to appear to the secretary of the interior that reclamation works by drainage can be advantageously constructed and maintained by local authority under the laws of such states and that the drainage of such lands is feasible and conducive to public health and the general welfare, the secretary of the interior, in his discretion, is hereby authorized, under such rules and regulation as he may prescribe, to loan out of the drainage fund to such states or to any municipality of such state, corporation, or drainage district authorized by the laws thereof to construct and maintain such improvements that funds necessary to construct the same, in order that such lands may be reclaimed and reclaimed, such loan shall be upon the bond of such state or municipality, corporation, or drainage district thereof, secured by a first and paramount lien upon the land benefited by the improvements, shall run not exceeding ten years, the same to be due in installments. Before granting such a loan the secretary of the interior shall require that the land proposed to be reclaimed shall be subdivided into lots of an area not to exceed a quarter section and held for sale for a prescribed period to actual settlers, at a price to be fixed by him and upon such terms and conditions as he may prescribe to the end that such reclaimed land may eventually be occupied by actual settlers and home builders. When any loan under this act is repaid the amount shall be put into the drainage fund and may be again loaned the same as the original sum."

This bill would enable the southern states, if it should become a law, to drain their wonderfully rich swamp land in the same manner as the west has reclaimed its arid lands.

HELEN DRUMMOND IS DYING IN A HOSPITAL IN NEW YORK As "Countess of Ilchester" She Was Received in Homes of the Best Known Society Folks.

New York, March 4.—Helen Drummond, whose friends claim she is the Eva Fox-Strangways, whom New York society was ready to welcome two years ago as the "Countess of Ilchester," is dying in Bellevue hospital from the effects of poison taken after her arrest on a charge of giving worthless checks.

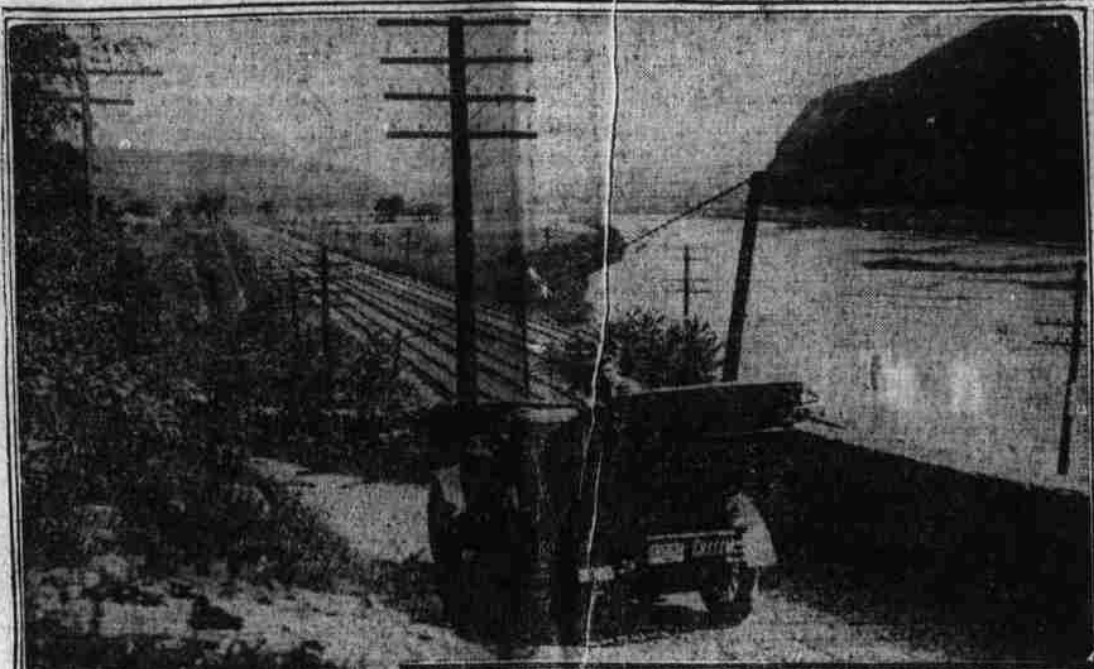
As "countess" the woman was received in the homes of the best known society people.

THE REPORT IS NOT CONFIRMED Not Certain That Persons Have Been Found Alive in Wreckage at Wellington.

Everett, Wash., March 4.—The report that ten persons were found alive in the wreckage of the steamship at Wellington, was not confirmed.

Forecast until 3 p. m. Saturday for Asheville and vicinity: Continued fair, warm weather tonight and Saturday.

Flood Scene, Valley of Mohawk



FLOOD SUFFERERS FACE STARVATION

Dynamite Fails to Move the Ice Gorges That Caused Inundation at Herkimer.

Utica, N. Y., March 4.—Starvation now menaces the flood-swept village of Herkimer. Dynamite blasts have failed to move the huge ice gorges and the stricken town is in a sorry plight. There is little prospect of the water receding and the people are seeking shelter in adjoining towns.

The key to the situation seems to be in the ice pack, which is choking the passage of Western Canadian creek, under the bridges of the New York Central Railroad and the Utica and Mohawk Valley railway. Hundreds of pounds of dynamite were exploded there, but the jam is still intact. Until this is broken the village will continue to suffer. The jam has forced the creek out of its channel and it has spread over the entire village.

Spokane, March 4.—After causing damage of one and a half million dollars in eastern and central Washington, the floods are beginning to subside.

Relief is Anticipated. Cleveland, March 4.—The weather bureau anticipates relief from floods in those sections of Ohio where the rivers rose out of their banks and inundated surrounding territory. Flood water at Zanesville, Youngstown and Chillicothe is rapidly receding.

DIVORCE DECREE IS MADE FINAL

But Information Concerning Alimony, in the Astor Suit, Was Not Obtainable Today.

New York, March 4.—The interlocutory decree of divorce of Mrs. Alva Willing Astor, from John Jacob Astor, was made final today. Information concerning the alimony settlement, and disposition of the Astor children, was not obtainable. Mrs. Astor is now in Europe.

OVER \$11,000,000 INVOLVED IN TELEPHONE STOCK DEAL American Telephone Company Buys Back Stocks Sold to the Mackey Companies.

Boston, March 4.—The purchase by the American Telephone company of \$2,000,000 shares of its stock recently sold to the Mackey companies was announced today by President Vall, who said the stock was secured at a price representing a cash outflow of between eleven and twelve million dollars.

A DENSE FOG HUNG OVER COAST But It Partly Disappeared This Forenoon and Steamers Are Once More on Move.

Norfolk, March 4.—A dense fog that enveloped the Virginia, Carolina, Maryland coast the past three days, lifted partly this morning, and numerous steamers that were compelled to lie at anchor outside the Virginia Capes passed in with a general resumption of transportation by water on the coast.

Forecast until 3 p. m. Saturday for Asheville and vicinity: Continued fair, warm weather tonight and Saturday.

GOVERNOR KITCHIN ACTS FAVORABLY

Grants Commutation to Life Imprisonment for John Atkinson, Under Sentence to Be Executed.

Special to The Gazette-News. Raleigh, March 4.—Governor Kitchin grants commutation to life imprisonment for John Atkinson, under sentence to be executed March 18. This action was taken because the murder, in Johnston county, was committed when the prisoner was under great excitement at having learned that the deceased had invaded the chastity of his home. Every lawyer who heard the trial, judge, jury and solicitor recommended a pardon.

PINCHOT AND VERTREES HOLD LONG ARGUMENTS

Cross-Examination of Deposed Government Forester Is Proceeding but Slowly.

Washington, March 4.—The cross-examination of Gifford Pinchot, the deposed government forester, proceeded slowly before the congressional investigating committee today. Attorney Vettes, counsel for Secretary Ballinger, and Mr. Pinchot became involved into long arguments over the meaning of some of the lawyer's questions. They argued almost continuously about the inference to be drawn from documentary evidence.

The lawyer drew from Mr. Pinchot the fact that his only first-hand knowledge of any act reflecting upon Secretary Ballinger in connection with the Cunningham case was based on the letter sent by Ballinger to President Taft November 15.

Balmy at Capital, to Show What March 4 Can Be

Washington, March 4.—Beautiful, balmy weather, with no trace of ice or snow mockingly greeted Washingtonians today on the first anniversary of President Taft's inauguration, and presented a striking example of what March 4 weather could be when there were no inaugural ceremonies and parade to mar.

Those House Members Have Begun to Duck

Washington, March 4.—Tacitly admitting the jurisdiction of the court, three members of the lower house on joint petition of the committee of congress today asked leave to amend their defenses to the allegation of the

STRIKE ORDER IS HELD IN ABEYANCE

And in Meanwhile Board of Mediation Is Endeavoring to Prevent Further Trouble on B. & O.

Baltimore, Md., March 4.—With a strike order held in abeyance until tomorrow, interest in the controversy over wages and service conditions between the Baltimore & Ohio railroad and its conductors and trainmen, centered today in the efforts of the board of mediation, under the Erdman act, to bring about a settlement of the differences by peaceful means.

NORMAL SCHOOLS ARE COMMENDED

Dr. Gulick, of the Russell Sage Foundation, Says They Are Doing Superior Work in Physical Training.

Indianapolis, March 4.—That the normal schools are making a much better provision for developing and conserving the physical soundness of their students than the high schools, was one of the conclusions in the report on the status of instruction in hygiene in American educational institutions, made by Dr. Luther H. Gulick of the Russell Sage foundation, before the American School Hygiene association today.

The Proposal Rejected. Pekin, March 4.—The Russian government, in a formal note to the Chinese board, rejected China's proposal for the construction of the Algon and Chinchow railroads.

THE CAMPAIGN NOW UNDER WAY

Democratic Aspirants for the Congressional Nomination Have All Moved In to the Open.

HON WILLIAM J. COCKE ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY

His Open Letter Suggests Optimism, Mr. Cocke Declaring He Will Carry the District If Nominated.

The congressional campaign in the Tenth district is now on in full swing. The republicans last week met here and fixed a date for the holding of their convention to renominate Representative Grant; the sub-committee from the democratic state executive committee will meet in Raleigh next week to make report on the matter referred to it concerning the method of nominating democrats for office throughout the state and then the democrats will get busy with their convention and primary dates. In the meantime the democrats in this district are warming up to the situation and the contest for the democratic congressional nomination is on in earnest. The most interesting development in the congressional fight today is the formal announcement by Hon. William J. Cocke of this city of his candidacy for the nomination. Mr. Cocke's name in this connection has been very frequently and favorably mentioned during the past several weeks by the press of the district, and his friends have frequently been heard to assert that he will be the nominee of the party.

In his formal announcement today Mr. Cocke says that if nominated he will carry the district; that if some other is nominated "I shall labor for his election with earnestness and loyalty." He says that the democratic slogan will be "Down with Aldrichism, Cannonism and Grantism." His announcement follows: "To the Democratic Voters of the Tenth Congressional District: "If you nominate me for congress I will carry this congressional district for the democracy; if you nominate some one else I shall labor for his election with earnestness and loyalty. There are so many loyal and deserving democrats in every county in the district who are more able than I am to conduct the approaching campaign, and more able than I am to represent all our people in the halls of congress, that I hesitate to make this formal announcement of my candidacy. "I am mindful too that already in the running are Hon. Sol. Gallert of Rutherford, Hon. Frank R. Hewitt of Buncombe, Hon. Walter E. Moore of Jackson, and Hon. James M. Gudger, jr., of Buncombe. Every one of these men are stalwart democrats and worthy gentlemen. Their friendship I have had the honor for years to enjoy. But I would be less than human if I were unresponsive to the flattering suggestion which is coming to me daily through word and letter and district press. "Down with Aldrichism, Cannonism and Grantism" will be the democratic slogan in the approaching campaign. The party in power, violating its written promises to the people, has legalized a public robbery that has amazed the world—among other things this is Aldrichism. Time and again a sovereign people, through their representatives in congress, have undertaken to register their determined will, but it has been brushed aside by "The Speaker of the House" with a tyranny that would put to shame the despotism of a Russian czar—among other things this is Cannonism. "The distribution of offices to the neglect of his district's material good, the utter lack of a conception of the high possibilities of a congressman for his people's welfare, the shameful filing of secret charges against a defenseless widow with an orphan child to support—this, among other things, is Grantism. "This condition of affairs is repulsive to that high sense of patriotism and justice which has ever distinguished the people of the mountain region. The mind of the district must and shall be convinced of an awful folly and of the righteousness of democracy's claims to ascendancy and power. The tenth district must and shall line itself up once again in the great cause of the people, and it must and shall be redeemed from the country-wide ill-repute into which well nigh indecent republican political wiles and arts have placed it. "To accomplish this great service, democracy must be united. When you select as your standard bearer is of small moment compared to the great patriotic services before you. My party's welfare and success has always been to me a higher ambition than my own personal advancement. "I ask for harmony then in the friendly rivalry into which, by this letter, I launch myself. To your party wisdom and your sense of party justice I commit my claims, and my verdict will be final with me and by every effort I shall seek to have it approved at the polls. Yours obediently, W. J. COCKE.

CONFIRMATION WITHOUT FIGHT

It Does Not Appear That Anything Will Be Put in Way of Messrs. Luther and Logan.

GRANT MAKES STATEMENT CONCERNING MRS. REED

Reiterates His Charges—The Senate Is Not Likely to Take Notice of Jeff Davis' Admissions.

Gazette-News Bureau, 46 Post Building, Washington, March 4.

It was learned today that Thomas Settle is here, in the Newbern post-office fight, as attorney for Baughnigh, the anti-organization candidate.

It does not appear that there will be any fight against the confirmation of Luther and Logan. Indications are that the senate will not take notice of Senator Jeff Davis' statement to the effect that he would get a big fee should an Arkansas bill which he advocated pass congress. This is practically the same offense with which Representative Spencer Blackburn of North Carolina was charged. District Attorney A. E. Holton is here. He has given up the fight for re-appointment.

Mr. Grant's Statement. Congressman John G. Grant gives out the following statement in regard to the Baltimore postoffice matter and other things of interest to the tenth district: "B. J. Luther's name as postmaster at Baltimore, W. W. Rollins' name as postmaster at Asheville, and W. E. Logan's name as postmaster at Newbern, have all been sent to the senate. I am confident they will all be confirmed. "A few of my political opponents have tried to give me trouble about these matters and especially about the Baltimore postoffice matter, in order to make political capital. With a few exceptions the democratic newspapers of the state have taken the matter up, and I have been accused of things which, with a very little inquiry, my denunciations might have found to be absolutely untrue. I have not been trying my case in the newspapers. I preferred to say nothing until I had been vindicated. The fact that the president has appointed Mr. Luther after thorough investigation had at the instance of my political opponents (to which, however, I in no way objected), and that he has also appointed Maj. Rollins and Mr. Logan who were endorsed by me, is the best vindication that could be asked for. "In regard to the removal of Mrs. Reed, neither she nor her friends have any ground for complaint. I did not want to hurt her, and I did all I could to keep from hurting her. She was surely ill-advised, for she knew full well that I could make good the charges that I preferred against her. It has been stated that, even though the charges were true, I was guilty of improper conduct in not giving her notice of the charges before I preferred them; but this is simply untrue, because, because I did notify her fully that I would prefer the charges if she would not do so, but after that she came to Washington, trying to go over my head in direct violation of her promise. Falling in her efforts she came to my office in Washington and asked me to let her see the charges if she would, making six months in all, she promised that she would then get out, which I agreed to let her do provided she would get out without a row; but I told her frankly that I was not going to endorse anyone, man or woman, who had acted as she had done, and that I would prefer the charges if she forced me to do it. "It has also been made to appear that I would prefer the charges if she suddenly, as a last resort, in order to save my political reputation with my friends at home. This also is utterly false. As a matter of fact I discussed the matter with a number of leading republicans in Asheville, Hendersonville, Greensboro, Winston and other parts of the state, and in Washington, months before the charges were preferred, telling them the facts and telling them that they would surely prefer the charges if Mrs. Reed forced me to do so. I had contemplated doing so for a long time, though I hoped up to the last that she would have the good sense not to force it. Had she been a man instead of a woman I would have preferred the charges at once. "During the early part of the fight that has been made against me on account of Mrs. Reed much was said about her ability as postmaster and the entire satisfaction she was giving to the patrons of the office, as though I was trying to ride rough-shod over the heads of the patrons. Those who have made and maintained charges with such a record as Mrs. Reed used a little of the facts, they would have found the truth to be the opposite of what they had stated. They would have found, as I am informed, that she was a capable postmaster, and that her removal would be a loss to the people of the district. "I have no more to say on this subject. I have preferred the charges at once. W. J. COCKE.