

HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON

Asheville Hopes of Being Headquarters for Acquiring Forest Lands Dashed to Earth by Secy. Wilson.

SENATOR OVERMAN STRONGLY URGED ASHEVILLE, IN VAIN

Geo. S. Powell Was Recommended as Agent for Purchase of Land but Graves Will Have This Matter in Charge.

ASHEVILLE'S hopes of becoming the headquarters of the commission created in the forest reserve bill to have charge of the purchase or acquiring of forest lands have been dashed to the ground for a while at least by a statement of Secretary Wilson of the department of agriculture that all matters in regard to the purchase of lands will be managed by the forestry department.

Senator Overman has given out the following interview on the forest reserve matter which will be of interest to people in this section:

Senator Overman's Statement. "I have just had a conference with the secretary of agriculture on this subject. Secretary Wilson is one of the commission created by the law to pass upon the purchase of lands, and the price to be paid. The other members of this commission are the secretary of war, who is its chairman, the secretary of the interior, and two representatives each of the senate and the house of representatives. The two members appointed by Speaker Cannon to this commission are Representative Hawley of Oregon and Representative Lee of Georgia, while Vice President Sherman appointed Senator Gallinger of New Hampshire and Senator Smith of Maryland.

"While the commission will pass finally on the lands to be purchased, the forest service is to have charge of designating the boundaries within which it is desirable to acquire land, provided it can be obtained on terms sufficiently favorable to the government, and of examining lands which are offered. This work is Secretary Wilson pointed out to me, exactly like the work which the Forest service has long done in the examination of western lands to discover whether or not they can best serve the public welfare through being made national forests. Consequently the forest service has trained experts who are prepared to push the work vigorously. This work will be exclusively in the hands of such men, so there will be no need to build up a field force of new employees, who would necessarily be inexperienced at first in the particular kind of work now to be done.

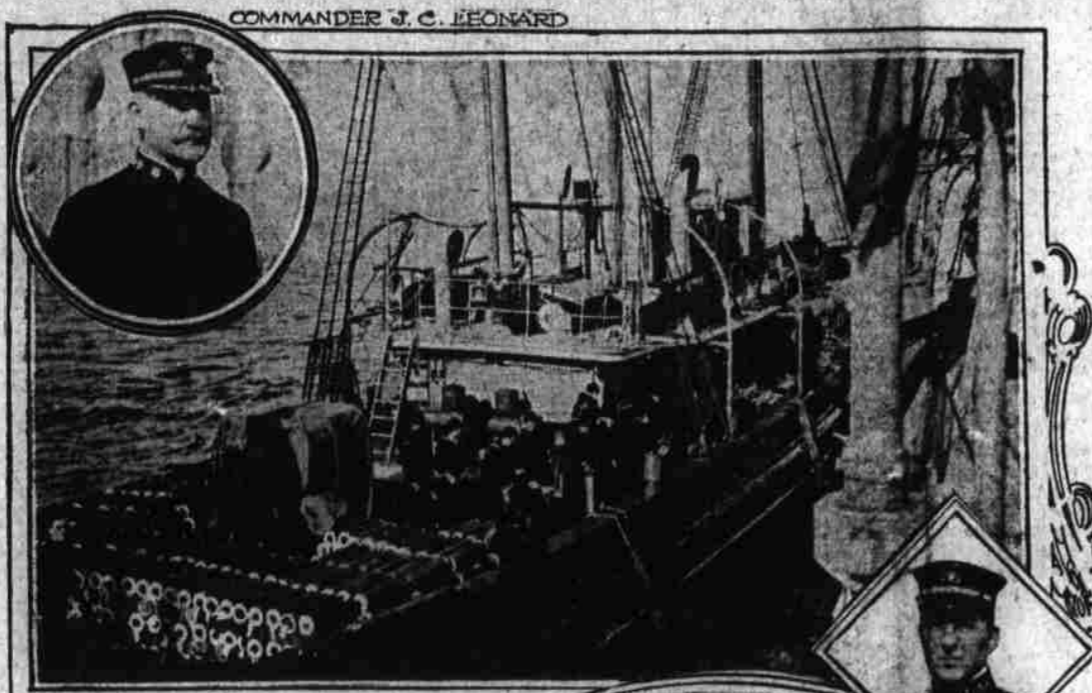
"A circular is now in course of preparation which will explain fully the procedure to be followed in connection with the purchase of lands. The circular will designate a number of regions in which it is desired first to consider purchases. Offers for the sale of land within the areas specified will be requested and the bids will be publicly opened by the secretary of agriculture at specified times. After the bids have been opened, experts from the forest service will be detailed to make field examinations.

"The result of these examinations will furnish a basis upon which to conduct negotiations with the owners of the tracts in question. After the examinations have been concluded, reports will be prepared upon which the commission will take action preliminary to purchase by the secretary of agriculture. Offers to sell need not necessarily wait until the publication of the circular, since the secretary of agriculture will be glad to receive at any time bids for the sale of lands in the White Mountain and Southern Appalachian regions. The secretary has expressed himself as very strongly in favor of the sale of the lands in question may be found to offer to sell their tracts at a nominal or a very reasonable rate, in order that a favorable start may be secured in executing the new law. Only lands which are not chiefly valuable for agriculture will be considered for purchase."

Ralph Johnstone Died a Poor Man. Kansas City, March 15.—Ralph Johnstone, the famous aviator, who lost his life in a tragic fall from an airplane at Denver November 11, died poor. According to a will filed last night, he left \$25,000 and real estate valued at \$110,000.

Frank Work, Multimillionaire, Dead. New York, March 15.—Frank Work, a multimillionaire railroad man, died at his home of pneumonia today, aged 92. It is reported he leaves an estate valued at \$1,000,000.

Soldiers at Fort Crockett Waiting Patiently For Something to Happen



LOADING AMMUNITION ON THE U.S.S. DES MOINES FROM THE APACHE

Troops Have Settled Down to Routine Work—Three Hours of Company and Battalion Drill Daily.

EL PASO, Tex., March 16.—Jaurez spent a sleepless night with the streets patrolled by double forces of guards and practically the entire garrison under arms in front of the barracks and General Navarro's headquarters. At daybreak the sleepy guards swept the country for insurgents. The coming of daylight lessened the anxiety of last night's excitement resulting from an attack upon the barracks when a small band of insurgents slipped through the lines into the city, demolished a portion of the barracks with bombs, escaping with the loss of two of their number wounded and taken prisoners. The authorities persist in the declaration that "the Federal troops suffered no loss, in killed or wounded. Madrid, with a hundred men, is farther south waiting to effect a junction with Orozco's force of 800, after which, it is reported, the insurgent leader will begin a march northward to the border.

Waiting Arrival of Coast Artillerymen. Army maneuvers now waiting arrival of 3,000 coast artillery troops from Hampton Roads. General Mills hopes to have his entire brigade in camp at Fort Crockett by the end of the week. Transports expected to arrive tomorrow according to latest advices. Winfield Jewell, soldier, stationed in the tenderloin district Saturday night, starting a race riot, continues to improve. A provost guard of twenty men has been detailed to assist police in preserving order.

J. A. McDaniel, an engineer on the Mexican Northwestern Railway, arriving today on a hand car, reported the road cut to pieces from Jaurez to its southern terminus at Pearson. He saw many insurgents heading south.

First Maneuvers Today. San Antonio, Tex., March 16.—The first maneuvers of troops in camp were on the program for today. It was proposed to send out a company of infantry several miles to seek cover and for an airplane to look for them. Southern Pacific officials have wanted to see if Mexican insurgents would make good a threat to blow up the wall bridges entering their country.

Galveston, Tex., March 16.—The soldiers encamped at Fort Crockett have settled down to a daily routine waiting for something to happen. They are having the three hours of company and battalion drill daily in extended formation and Colonel Bailey is planning to increase the time (Continued on page 4.)

PRESIDENT TAFT ENJOYING LINKS

He Was Out Early This Morning for Usual Round 18 Holes—Will not Act on Pardons Now.

Augusta, March 15.—President Taft was early to the links of the Country club today for his usual round of 18 holes of golf. Weather clear and chilly. Mr. Taft has spent little time in his improvised executive office during the last two or three days. Secretary Norton also has been on the golf course daily. Yesterday the motor on the president's car registered 88 miles travel.

It is now certain the president will not act in the pardon cases of Charles W. Morse and John R. Walsh until after his return to Washington on Monday. The president this afternoon had a conference with Clark Howell, editor of the Atlanta Constitution, and his brother, Albert Howell, Jr., on the subject of second class postage rates with special reference to magazines.

MEXICAN MINISTER HUSBAND JEALOUS IS OFF FOR MEXICO OF KISSING BRIDE

Slips Quietly out of New York for St. Louis—May Ask for Military Escort. When He Attempts a Little Peccolion She Tells Him Women's Rights Are not for Men.

New York, March 15.—Senator Jose Yves Limantour, Mexico's minister of finance, slipped quietly out of town yesterday afternoon, apparently bound direct for Mexico City.

From what could be learned he has abandoned his idea of going home by way of Florida and Havana, for he left New York at 2 p. m., over the Pennsylvania railroad in his private car en route to St. Louis. Railroad officers say from St. Louis he would go direct to Laredo, Tex., and from that point travel to Mexico City by rail in a course to be determined by conditions on the border.

It is understood that should Senator Limantour ask for a military escort through Texas his request probably would be granted to the extent of guarding him to the border between Texas and Mexico.

Behind him Senator Limantour left a long typewritten statement and the clerk at the desk of the hotel said he had inquired particularly about the sailings on or about March 29 of all lines running between Havana and Vera Cruz. It will be recalled that on his arrival from Europe he said he intended to go home by way of Florida, Havana, Yucatan and Vera Cruz and that he hoped to arrive in Mexico City within ten or twelve days from the date he left New York.

"There have been frequent and persistent rumors," his farewell statement read in part, "that I would not return to Mexico, that if I did it would not be to assume the duties of the office I have tried to fill acceptably for some years. It affords me pleasure to say that I am returning to Mexico, not only to assume those duties, but also to do whatever may be within my sphere of action to help the general conditions of my country."

"How long will the insurrection last?" "Quiet sabe? That will depend as much upon acts of Americans as the Mexicans. May the American people never forget that Mexico is a country of wonderful resources and possibilities, but that their fullest development can never come except through the complete co-operation of every one who has the best interests of Mexico at heart. Shall not all such unite in one determined effort to bring about the desired result, this is my last and most serious word to the American people."

The minister complimented the press on his personal treatment of him, but chided it for printing sensational accounts of conditions in Mexico to which in a large part he attributes the present disturbance. For many years he declared President Diaz has told his visitors that "all he desired to have told about his country was the truth; he discouraged fulsome praises as well as much talking" and this all, says Senator Limantour, "that I ask of the press of the United States or of the country in dealing with Mexico, the truth."

HUSBAND JEALOUS OF KISSING BRIDE

When He Attempts a Little Peccolion She Tells Him Women's Rights Are not for Men.

New Rochelle, N. Y., March 16.—City business was seriously, but pleasantly interrupted yesterday afternoon by the activities of a kissing bride. The young lady, whose visit will long be remembered by several prominent officials, was Miss Bertha Easton Barber of New London, Conn., who came here with Tyler Council McNamara, the bridegroom-to-be, and John O'Brien, Jr., a mutual friend. Mr. McNamara is an electrical engineer. The two made the trip from New London in an automobile. After obtaining a marriage license from the city clerk, they called on Judge H. McKinley Power to perform the marriage ceremony. He was trying a case but declared a recess and took the bride party to the private reception rooms of Mayor Harry E. Colwell.

City Clerk George H. C. Lischke and William J. McAlone, his deputy, stepped in from an adjoining office to be on hand for emergencies. When the ceremony was ended Mrs. McNamara threw her arms around Judge Powers' neck and planted two hearty kisses on his cheeks. Then ignoring the bridegroom she did the same for Mr. O'Brien. Mr. McAlone was standing in line and got his kiss on a claim that he had acted as bridesmaid.

"Don't forget the man who gave the license," said the city clerk, and Mrs. McNamara proved she wasn't stingy. The husband meanwhile caught a glimpse of two pretty stenographers at the city clerk's office. He was making a wild dash in their direction when his bride caught his coat tails.

"No, you don't, dearie," she said as she puckered her lips for a kiss. "Women's rights are not for men—especially bridesmaids."

TOWN OF PENSACOLA THREATENED BY FIRE

Ten Buildings in Eight Different Blocks Had Been Destroyed at Noon—Still Wind Blowing. Montgomery, Ala., March 16.—Reports by telephone at noon indicate that fire threatens to destroy Pensacola, Fla. The fire gained headway in ten blocks and flames are fanned by a northwest wind. Ten buildings in eight different blocks are already destroyed. The fire started near the Union depot.

G.P. WHITSON TELLS A PATHETIC STORY

Does not Know Whether He Killed Man for Whose Death He Goes to Prison to Serve Life Term.

SAYS HE HAS LIVED GOOD LIFE SINCE HE ESCAPED, 17 YEARS AGO

Trouble Arose Over Whitson's Wife—Story of His Life in Kentucky—He Expects Pardon.

Late yesterday afternoon a man of small stature, meek-eyed and pleasant in appearance was taken from a carriage at City hall heavily shackled and handcuffed. The man was G. P. Whitson and was in charge of Warden Sale of the state penitentiary. The warden had brought his man from Lexington, Ky., and en route to Raleigh stopped here for the night. In jail the shackles and the handcuffs were removed and Whitson talked freely to a newspaper man.

His case is one to excite sympathy. It was in 1882 that he and his brother and a man named Staunton became involved in a difficulty in Mitchell county with a fourth man, the trouble arising over Whitson's wife. In the shooting that followed the fourth man was wounded, and later he died. Whitson declares that he does not know whether it was his shot that inflicted the fatal injury. He did admit, however, that he disarmed his adversary; that he shot downward and that the bullet may have glanced and wounded the man. At any rate he and his brother were arrested and tried, and G. P. Whitson was sentenced to be hanged while his brother was given a prison sentence. Later the sentence of death imposed on G. P. Whitson was commuted to life imprisonment and he was taken to the state penitentiary to serve the sentence.

Made His Escape. Seventeen years ago while a petition for pardon was pending and about the time or just before his brother was pardoned, G. P. Whitson effected his escape. Nothing was heard of the man from that day until a few days ago when an officer of the law was "tipped off" that he was living near Lexington, Ky. His arrest followed and he is now en route to Raleigh to serve the life-sentence. The case is peculiar and not unlike in many respects that of Stripling, the Georgia man who, unless the governor pardons, goes back to prison for life.

Went As He Told Story. In the cell yesterday afternoon Mr. Whitson with tears in his eyes related his story. He does not believe that he is guilty; he feels certain that his life during the past 17 years has been one of any sin and any crime of which he may be guilty. "How did I escape from the prison?" asked Mr. Whitson in reply to a question.

Had the Aid of a Guard. "Well, I won't go into detail but I had the aid of a guard. After leaving the prison I remained in North Carolina for a time and then went to Kentucky. Six months after the trouble in Mitchell county my wife died and after I escaped from the penitentiary I married again. I married in Kentucky and have raised a family of several children. I worked hard and succeeded in saving some money. With the money I earned I went into farming and at the time of my arrest had amassed a considerable sum. I was a poor man and had to work hard but I seemed to succeed and now own a very comfortable farm near Lexington and was well fixed. Yes, it is hard to leave my wife and children and go back to prison for a life term but I believe I will be pardoned, and that very soon I will be a free man, and then I won't have to hide and dodge from the officers of the law. Since my escape from prison I have lived an upright and Christian life and have tried to make a good citizen."

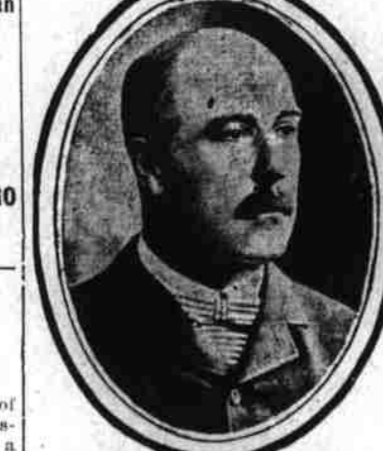
Hickory Mills Starts Up Again. Special to The Gazette-News. Hickory, March 16.—The Ivey cotton mill has started up again after a week's rest. During the last four weeks work at the mill 10,000 yards more cloth was made than ever before in the history of the mill. This fine record is attributed in large part to the work of the new weave room overseer, Capt. C. E. Cole, and it is admitted by all the mill people that he knows how to run to secure a big production.

Harvard Students Had Narrow Escape. Cambridge, Mass., March 16.—One student was rescued in an unconscious condition and many others barely escaped, scantily clad, to the street in a fire partially destroying Randolph hall, one of the exclusive dormitories of Harvard university. Loss to structure, \$25,000.

Carrie Nation Critically Ill. Leavenworth, Kansas, March 16.—Carrie Nation, the saloon smasher, is critically ill and gradually growing weaker. Her condition is due to a general breakdown. She is now in a sanitarium.

Explosion Fuel Oil Cause of Bad Fire. San Francisco, March 16.—Explosion of fuel oil caused fire in the middle of a block of automobile stores. Five buildings with contents were practically destroyed. Loss hundred thousand.

One of These May Succeed Geo. J. Gould



FREDERICK D. UNDERWOOD



F. A. DELANO

St. Louis, March 16.—The annual meeting of the Missouri Pacific will be held here some time today when a successor will be chosen to succeed George J. Gould in the directorate of the company. Among those most prominently mentioned as the successor of Mr. Gould are Frederick D. Underwood, A. E. Smith and F. A. Delano.

Drop of 46 Degrees in Mercury. A shrill, piercing, blustery, swift wind swooped down from the northwest yesterday afternoon and last night, causing a drop of 46 degrees in the mercury in less than 12 hours. Automobiles abandoned the streets early in the night, pedestrians hurrying home last evening were chilled to the marrow. The weather bureau's prophecy was more than fulfilled—for all previous March records were smashed. The morning was bright and warm and the little column of mercury crept up to 60 degrees, wavered a moment and began its rapid fall. This morning it had sunk to the 14 degree mark. The dry atmosphere with a cloudless sky and a good wind probably saved much damage that a freeze when everything was wet would have accomplished. The fruit crop is regarded as safe. Only in some places have the peach-buds swelled to opening. The apple trees are still hibernating, so to speak. The freezing line started in about Norfolk, crossed the Carolinas and reached below Atlanta.

Strike Trouble IS WELL IN HAND. Only one Outbreak Occurred Yesterday—Authorities Can Cope With The Situation. Somerset, Ky., March 16.—County Judge Tartara, County Attorney Waddle and Sheriff Waddle, united in a statement explaining the situation arising from the strike of the white firemen on the Queen & Crescent route. They declare there has been no disorder in Putnam county beyond the control of the authorities, and no special deputy sheriffs will be sworn in. Only one outbreak was reported yesterday from the entire territory between Danville, Ky., and Oakdale, Tenn., in connection with the strike. That took place at Atkins Mountain, a Chicago strikebreaker being the victim. He was beaten by a crowd which afterwards tied a rope around his neck and dragged him about the railroad yards. He is in a hospital.

Get-Rich-Quick Promoter Gets Three Years. New York, March 16.—George H. Munroe, promoter of "get rich quick" schemes, who, it is said by government officials, obtained \$50,000 from confiding investors, was convicted of using the mails in connection with fraudulent stock operations. Judge Hugh sentenced Munroe to three years in the Atlanta penitentiary.

Skeleton of Child Found. Springfield, Mass., March 15.—Workmen while installing a heating system at Alvah S. Brainerd's house near Hazardville, found a keg in an old fashioned chimney containing a human skeleton. The remains were those of a child. Nothing was left but the bones and a few ashes. The Brainerd family is at a loss to explain the mystery.

Freights Moving on C., N. O. & T. P. Chattanooga, Tenn., March 15.—Freight began moving with more regularity on the Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific railway. Since midnight five freight trains started north. The superintendent of terminals reports show less disorders.

COUNTRY IS IN GRIP OF WAVE

Cold Snap Unusually Severe in Eastern Section of the Country

With Little Prospects of Let-Up Before Tomorrow.

THERMOMETER WENT DOWN TO ZERO IN NEW YORK STATE

Cold Borne in Upon Wind That Reached Velocity of 56 Miles an Hour—in Asheville High Wind and Severe Cold.

NEW YORK, March 16.—A cold snap of unusual severity has gripped the entire eastern section of the country tightly gripped, with little probability of its grasp being loosened before tomorrow. There was a drop of thirty six degrees to a minimum of 16 degrees here. Temperatures, following rain and brief snow flurry last night, dropped to nearly zero in the interior of the state. It was four above zero at Pittsburgh this morning and 14 degrees in Washington, D. C., the latter temperature being a remarkably low figure for that city at this time of year. The cold wave was borne in upon a wind with a velocity of 56 miles an hour. The storm has moved northeastward and today is central in eastern Maine.

Potato Crop Severely Injured. Norfolk, March 16.—With a drop from balmy weather to eight degrees below freezing last night, the early fruit crop in this part of Virginia is believed to be seriously damaged. Plum, peach and pear trees were caught in bloom or with young fruit. Crops suffered heavily. In eastern Carolina the potato crop is believed to be severely injured.

Seven Lives Lost as Result of Gale on Lake Erie. Cleveland, March 16.—Seven lives and a fishing lug are at the bottom of Lake Erie as the result of a gale which swept the lakes. The tug Silver Spray, operated by the Booth Fisheries company of Cleveland went down off this harbor. Crew of six men and a boy took a life boat and rowed for shore but were dashed on the breakwater and drowned. Along the lake front it is rumored in addition to the crew the Silver Spray carried three unknown passengers.

Almost Zero Weather in Virginia. Winchester, Va., March 16.—The temperature fell sixty degrees in twelve hours last night. Fruit is believed to be badly damaged. The thermometer registered close to zero this morning.

Drop of 46 Degrees in Mercury. A shrill, piercing, blustery, swift wind swooped down from the northwest yesterday afternoon and last night, causing a drop of 46 degrees in the mercury in less than 12 hours. Automobiles abandoned the streets early in the night, pedestrians hurrying home last evening were chilled to the marrow. The weather bureau's prophecy was more than fulfilled—for all previous March records were smashed. The morning was bright and warm and the little column of mercury crept up to 60 degrees, wavered a moment and began its rapid fall. This morning it had sunk to the 14 degree mark. The dry atmosphere with a cloudless sky and a good wind probably saved much damage that a freeze when everything was wet would have accomplished. The fruit crop is regarded as safe. Only in some places have the peach-buds swelled to opening. The apple trees are still hibernating, so to speak. The freezing line started in about Norfolk, crossed the Carolinas and reached below Atlanta.

The lowest temperature this winter was 9.8 degrees January 4. That last night was the lowest for March since the establishment of the weather bureau. The low record up to last night was held by March 21, 1906, with 18 degrees as its mark. Before that the lowest recorded was 21 degrees. The record of 14 last night, or four degrees below the March record and only four degrees above the lowest for the winter, is a remarkable one. The day warmed up today and indications are that the cold spell will ease off gradually. A temperature of about 20 degrees is expected for tonight.

METHODIST MINISTERS OPPOSE NUDE STATUES

Statues Objected to as "Immodest Art," "Indecent Exhibitions," "Abominations."

Boston, March 16.—Nude statues are objected to as "immodest art," "indecent exhibitions," "abominations," in vigorous protests lodged by Bishop Malan of the Methodist Episcopal church and other clergymen in opposing the proposed bill appropriating \$50,000 to support the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.