

TELEGRAPH MEN MUCH SURPRISED

Hitchcock's Recommendation for Government Ownership of Wire Lines Discussed in New York.

MEANS LOWER RATES SAY FEDERAL EXPERTS

Would Be Doubtful Experiment Declares Western Union President—Other Countries' Experience.

New York, Jan. 15.—The announcement from Washington that Postmaster General Hitchcock is about to recommend government ownership of telegraph and telephone lines was received with surprise by the big telegraph and telephone company officials.

Washington, Jan. 15.—Acquisition of the telegraph lines of the United States by the government and their operation as a part of the postal service will be recommended to congress in a short time by Postmaster General Hitchcock.

For a year or more Mr. Hitchcock has had this recommendation under consideration. After a thorough study of the operation of government controlled telegraph lines and postal telegraph systems of foreign countries he has decided to urge the matter upon congress.

"Should this recommendation be adopted," said Mr. Hitchcock in a statement of his intention, "I am convinced it would result in important economies and very materially lower telegraph rates than now are exacted. In approximately 50 countries of the world—notably in Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, Russia and Japan—government controlled telegraphs now are in successful and profitable operation. In many of the countries they are operated in connection with the postal service. These telegraphs serve an aggregate population of 550,000,000 and in every instance they have been found to be of immense practical benefit to the people, in both promptitude and cost of the service.

"In this country postoffices are maintained in numerous places not reached by the telegraph systems and the proposed consolidation therefore would afford favorable opportunity for cities. In many small towns where the telegraph and mail business could be handled readily by the same employes. It is evident that the separate maintenance of the two services under the present conditions results in a needless expense.

First Telegraph Operated by Government.

"The first telegraph in the United States was operated from 1844 to 1847 by the government, under authority from congress, and from many viewpoints it is desirable that government control should be resumed. A method for the acquisition of telegraph lines is prescribed in Section 5267 of the revised statutes, which provides that, for postal, military or other purposes, the government may purchase telegraph lines operated in the United States at an appraised value.

"My own view is that every reason for the transmission of mail under government control should be urged with equal force for the transmission of communications by telegraph. Because of the more extensive organization maintained by the postal service and the freedom from taxation and other charges to which private corporations are subject, the government undoubtedly could afford greater facilities at lower rates than are afforded by companies now conducting the telegraph business. Next to the introduction of a general parcel post, for which there is a strong popular demand, the establishment of a government telegraph system offers, in my judgment, the best opportunity for the profitable extension of the nation's postal service."

It is not Mr. Hitchcock's purpose to recommend the acquisition of telegraph lines, except, possibly, in instances where they are operated as telegraph lines and are an integral part of definite telegraph systems.

The latest census figures available indicate that about 100,000 people are connected with the telegraph companies of the United States. The appraised value of the system proposed to be acquired would be purely conjectural, but it is said it would approximate \$20,000,000. The experts who have figured on the proposition are of the opinion that existing telegraph rates could be reduced at least two-thirds to the public and yet make the investment in, and operation of, the lines profitable to the government.

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MILITIA TO QUELL MILL STRIKE BIOT

Two Companies Called Out at Lawrence, Mass.—A Dozen Injured.

Lawrence, Mass., Jan. 15.—Two companies of militia were called out to assist the police to quell rioting in connection with the textile mill workers' strike here. Most of the rioters were foreign operatives. The uproar at the mill gates was so great that seven big plants shut down. During the rioting a dozen or more operatives were injured. It is estimated that 10,000 operatives are idle.

MANY LIVES LOST IN WINTRY STORM

Heavy Snowfall Follows the Extreme Cold in New York.

New York, Jan. 15.—A heavy snow storm broke up the frigid cold wave which has now passed to sea. The weather was the coldest experienced in years. Many lives were lost and many ships were wrecked at sea. Incoming liners arrived encrusted with ice.

SIX KILLED WHEN HIT BY TRAIN AT CROSSING

Party Being Conveyed to Church Meets Death at Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Jan. 15.—Six persons, five women and a man, were killed when an express train on the New York division of the Pennsylvania railroad crashed into a light station wagon at the Linden avenue grade crossing in Torresdale, a suburb, yesterday. The dead are:

Charles Davidson, aged 50 years. Nellie O'Connor, aged 19 years. Bridget Malloy, aged 42 years. Agnes Garrity, aged 22 years. Rose Gallagher, aged 18 years. Mary Roddy, aged 26 years.

The dead women were all employed as servants in fashionable homes in Torresdale and were being conveyed to church when the accident occurred. Davidson was the driver for a local deliveryman and had been making the trip every Sunday for the past two years.

The Linden avenue crossing is usually guarded by a watchman but the regular man was on leave of absence and his substitute had not appeared when the coach reached the crossing.

Davidson waited for a freight train to pass and then drove directly in front of the approaching express. The horses managed to clear the track, but the engine struck the wagon squarely on the side. Davidson and Agnes Garrity, who were seated on the front seat, were tossed to the side of the track, but the four other women were thrown directly under the wheels of the train and when their bodies were recovered were so badly mutilated that it was necessary to identify them by their clothing.

Agnes Garrity was still alive when she was picked up, but died while being conveyed to Torresdale station. Davidson was dead when his body was found 50 feet from the tracks.

KEEL PLATE IS LAID OF GREAT BATTLESHIP

When She Is Added to the Navy Britain Will Have 32 Dreadnaughts or Supers.

Portsmouth, England, Jan. 15.—The keel plate of Great Britain's twenty-eighth ship of the dreadnaught class was laid in the dock yards here today. The vessel is the first of five armored ships provided for in the naval program for the present year. When she is added to the navy Great Britain will have 32 dreadnaughts or super-dreadnaughts, half of which will be armed with 15.5 inch guns.



New York Herald and The Gazette-News.

"THE HEIGHT OF--"

MISSING HEIBESS FOUND IN GOTHAM

Violet Beuhler Says She Left Home Nov. 25 to See the World.

New York, Jan. 15.—Violet Beuhler, the missing Chicago heiress, was arrested at the corner of First avenue and Seventeenth street today and taken to the police station. She had been working in the neighborhood as a nurse taking care of sick women. Miss Beuhler admitted her identity. She told the police she came here over a month ago with the idea of seeing the world. She declared no man had anything to do with her leaving home. The girl who is worth \$100,000, disappeared from her Chicago home November 25. Kidnapping was suspected.

NEW FRENCH CABINET

Premier Poincare Names Briand, Bourgeois, Millerand, Delcasse and Klots as New Government.

Paris, Jan. 15.—The French cabinet, organized by Premier Poincare, was officially announced yesterday. The cabinet is composed as follows: Premier and minister of foreign affairs, Raymond Poincare; minister of justice, Aristide Briand; minister of labor, Leon Bourgeois; minister of war, Alexandre Millerand; minister of marine, Theophile Delcasse; minister of finance, L. L. Klots.

DENIES ENGAGEMENT

Miss Felts Says Her Interest in C. V. T. Richeson Was Never More Than Friendly.

Salt Lake City, Jan. 15.—Miss Patry Felts, who, according to a report was engaged in 1903 to Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson, now under sentence of death for poisoning Miss Avis Linnell, has been a resident here several years. Miss Felts denies she was ever engaged to Richeson. She said she loaned him money in Missouri to complete his theological education but asserts her interest in him was nothing more than friendly.

Grounded Steamer Afloat.

Provincetown, Mass., Jan. 15.—The Bull line's steamer Withemina, which grounded on Truro flats while outward bound for Newport News, came off under her own power apparently uninjured today. She will continue the voyage south.

Karl's Attack Repulsed.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 15.—A Japanese dispatch says that Kurda attacked a Russian regiment marching from Kholi in northern Persia to Urumiah. Kurda's forces were killed but the Russians suffered no losses.

Employers' Liability Act Is Held Constitutional

Washington, Jan. 15.—The constitutionality of the employers' liability law, passed by congress in 1908, was upheld by the Supreme court in all cases before it today. The opinion changes the old common law rule that the employe of common carrier could not procure damages from carriers for injuries received in employment when injuries resulted in the negligence of a fellow workman.

KILLS FATHER OF MAN WHO TOOK HIS WIFE

A. G. Boyce, Sr., Shot by J. B. Sneed, Banker, at Fort Worth.

Fort Worth, Tex., Jan. 15.—A. G. Boyce, sr., father of the man who recently was arrested in Winnipeg, Manitoba, charged with the abduction of Mrs. J. B. Sneed from a hospital in Fort Worth was shot and killed Saturday night by J. B. Sneed, a banker of Amarillo, Tex., husband of the woman with whom young Boyce is said to have eloped.

DENIES THAT JAPANESE ARE MENACING HAWAII

Washington, Jan. 15.—Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war, denied emphatically before the house committee on military affairs that there are 30,000 Japanese veterans of the Russo-Japanese war living in Hawaii and formed into secret military organizations, ready to take possession of the islands at any time.

FIND WALSH'S BODY

New York, Jan. 15.—In the shadows of weakening walls that threatened each moment to totter and fall, a squad of firemen worked for five hours Saturday afternoon to wrest from the ruins of the Equitable building the body of Battalion Chief William Walsh, who met death in the fire of last Thursday. They found him shortly after noon, half sitting, half reclining, with outstretched arms, pinned face down by a giant iron beam and with only his rubber coat showing. It was dark when they lifted the body.

MEETING AT OPEN SWITCH

Newcastle, Pa., Accident.

OPPOSING TAX ON THE CATTLE

It Is Said if \$1 Head Tax on Dairy Cows Is Maintained Proposed Creamery Will Not Be Established.

DIFFERENT OPINIONS HELD BY DAIRYMEN

One Says He Would Be Willing to Pay for Cattle Testing, but Does Not Think It Would Cost \$1 Each.

According to a prominent dairyman of this city, who is one of those interested in the promotion of a co-operative creamery here, an outline of the plans of which was published a few days ago, this creamery will not be established at Asheville if the special tax of \$1 per cow for dairying purposes is not rescinded, at least in part. He stated that the money for establishing the creamery has all been subscribed, and that the promoters could have secured at least twice as much, in fact that one man had offered to subscribe \$10,000 for the purpose, but that they would take no steps to build the creamery here if they had to pay this special tax. He stated that to run the creamery successfully would require from 1000 to 1200 cows and he did not think that such a tax as this, even though it might be imposed on several farmers or dairymen, would be just. However, he said, they are perfectly willing to pay a special privilege tax of a certain amount for each dairy.

Have Employed Attorneys. The matter has already been taken up with the board of trade and it was stated that the promoters of the scheme have employed two attorneys to go before the board of aldermen at their meeting Friday night and ask that they be given relief in this respect, and it was intimated that the matter might be tested in the courts, if the relief is not granted. It is thought it is felt that the aldermen will find some way of furnishing the relief asked for.

The dairymen say that they think the cows ought to be inspected and one of them said that if the city did not do the inspection he would hire an inspector himself, but he did not think that it would take \$1 a head to pay for the inspection.

Will Probably Come Up Friday Night. The matter will probably be disposed of at the meeting of the board of aldermen Friday night and there seems to be some question as to whether the law would apply to those dairymen who furnish cream to creameries, since it does not apply to those who sell butter alone. Since the cream would be shipped here for the purpose of making butter at a factory at that, it is possible that there may be some way found by which the cream that is shipped to this creamery will not be subject to the tax.

If the creamery is not built at Asheville it is not likely that it will be built, as the farmers and dairymen could not afford to pay transportation on the milk where it has to be transferred. The Southern railway has made or promises to make a baggage rate from the places around Asheville from which the cream is likely to be shipped, but the company cannot make this rate if the shipments have to be transferred. Even if the creamery is located out of the city limits, as was suggested, the creamery would have to haul the milk some distance.

One man who is indirectly interested in the establishing of the creamery here stated this morning that he thought the \$1 tax would be a great benefit to the farmers and dairymen. Said he, "on account of this tax, the farmer would have to keep good cows, he could not afford to keep poor ones." The farmer, however, may not see the force of this argument.

SPANISH CABINET OUT

Resignations Follow Controversy with King Over Abrogation of Commuting Death Sentence.

Madrid, Jan. 15.—The Spanish cabinet, of which Jose Canalejas y Mendes was premier, resigned yesterday. The cabinet resigned as the result of a divergence of views with King Alfonso as to the advisability of commuting the death sentences of one of the rioters, who murdered a judge and wounded several court officials in the town of Cullera, province of Valencia last September.

FIND WALSH'S BODY

Dead Battalion Chief Pinned in Equitable Ruins by Great Iron Beam.

New York, Jan. 15.—In the shadows of weakening walls that threatened each moment to totter and fall, a squad of firemen worked for five hours Saturday afternoon to wrest from the ruins of the Equitable building the body of Battalion Chief William Walsh, who met death in the fire of last Thursday. They found him shortly after noon, half sitting, half reclining, with outstretched arms, pinned face down by a giant iron beam and with only his rubber coat showing. It was dark when they lifted the body.

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A HINT COMING FROM COL. T. R.

The Sagamore Hill Sage Is Expected Soon to Lay a Course for His Friends.

CAN BE NOMINATED, BUT DOUBTS ELECTION

The Colonel Now Gauging Possible Elements of Weakness—North Carolinians at the Capital.

Gazette-News Bureau, Wyatt Building, Washington, Jan. 15.

A coterie of gentlemen here who keep track of events at Oyster Bay, largely, no doubt, by means of the long-distance telephone, are of the opinion that Colonel Roosevelt will favor his friends with a hint with respect to his mental attitude within the next 10 days. While it may be unlike Colonel Roosevelt to keep any part of his thoughts under cover, when he gets to the point of really wishing a thing, nevertheless there are very few who think he will go further than give a mere suggestion to his friends.

It may be said that there are two kinds of Roosevelt radicals. One group would like to go right ahead with the present spontaneous Roosevelt boom, hoping to be able to hodge the victim in the end, making him serve as a candidate, without reference to his individual views on the subject, while the other kind would favor a sort of "animated moderation" in their support of the colonel which would take account of the victim's known predilections. The latter group would first have the colonel say whether he would stand hitched, to employ another figure of speech, which may be considered more or less in order, and then go ahead with plans for a convention stamped that would not be lacking in conclusiveness or finality.

Why Roosevelt Holds Off. Friends of Colonel Roosevelt, who are known to be in his confidence, say he is hesitating, not because he thinks there would be any doubt of his nomination should he enter the lists, but because of the tremendous responsibility which would be his in the event his friends prevailed in the convention. There would then be left the detail of getting himself elected, in the face of third term talk, the disgruntled Taft following, an offended Catholic vote and other elements of possible weakness.

Paul W. Schenck spent Saturday in Washington and, accompanied by Senator Overman, visited the war department to look over the 14 Greene statue models. Major Stedman and others have already inspected these models and in time the consensus of opinion of those concerned will be secured and a selection made. Mr. Schenck, who has been in Philadelphia on insurance business, left for Greensboro.

Col. and Mrs. Andrews left Saturday for Raleigh after spending several days in Washington. Mrs. Ward of New York has been a guest of Mrs. Andrews here, and will go on to Florida for the remainder of the season. Miss Gibbs returned to Raleigh with Mrs. Andrews.

The senate having adjourned Thursday over until Monday, Senator Simmons went to the state for a couple of days, returning here yesterday. The senator was accompanied by his daughter, Miss Isabelle. Mrs. Simmons is already here, and they will spend the winter at the Raleigh.

PICK HUNTINGTON WILSON AS PARIS EMBASSADOR

Assistant Secretary of State May Succeed Bacon in France.

Washington, Jan. 15.—Huntington Wilson, assistant secretary of state, is to succeed Robert Bacon as ambassador to France, according to persistent rumors in diplomatic circles here. Thomas C. Dawson, resident diplomat in office of the state department, whose name was mentioned prominently in connection with the post of ambassador to Brazil, to which Edward W. Morgan was named, will be made assistant secretary of state, the same rumors say.

State department officials refused to comment on the matter or declared that it was news to them.

34 Injured in Wreck.

Toledo, Jan. 15.—Thirty-four passengers on Big Four train No. 1 from Detroit to Cincinnati, are reported to have been hurt in a wreck which occurred yesterday afternoon four miles south of Carey, O. Two of the day coaches left the track on account of spreading rails. These two cars went into a ditch alongside the track.