

PROBE ALLEGED LAND SWINDLE

Order Issued and Witnesses Summoned for Inquiry Into Asserted Shielding of Everglades Promoters

CALL ON DEPARTMENT FOR FULL STATEMENT

Investigators Want to Know Why Engineers Were "Fired" and What Reports Cost.

Washington, Feb. 8.—A formal order for a congressional investigation of the Florida everglade land case in the department of agriculture was passed by the house committee on expenditures in that department today.

Representative Moss, the committee's chairman immediately telegraphed J. O. Wright, Florida's drainage engineer and who was formerly connected with the agricultural department, to appear before the committee Tuesday.

"I have called upon the department of agriculture for a complete statement of the exact cost of drainage work in the Florida everglades," said Moss, "with a list of all employees in the work. In this statement will be included the cost of getting up the reports which, it is alleged, were suppressed. I expect that the statement will be ready for the committee Saturday."

Entire Division Under Inquiry. The committee has decided to not only investigate the everglade lands and the alleged relations of Florida land syndicates to the controversy, but also to conduct a thorough inquiry into the drainage division of the department of agriculture.

"We will also thoroughly sift the charges of misapplication of funds upon which were based the dismissal of Chief Engineer C. G. Elliott and his assistant, A. D. Morehouse, and the suspension of F. E. Singler, secretary of the division," said Moss. "This inquiry will force a postponement of the inquiry into the department forestry division, which the committee had planned to begin next week."

Says Wilson Admitted Collusion. Representative Frank Clark of Florida replied hotly in the house to the statement given out by the department of agriculture which described his presentment of charges of suppression of facts and the undue influence of land promoters as "prejudiced and one-sided."

"I am ready to prove," he declared, "that the secretary of agriculture told me, in the presence of reputable witnesses, that he suppressed a circular letter that gave the facts at the instance of persons engaged in selling lands in the everglades of Florida."

"I hesitated to take this action," he said, "because I looked upon the venerable secretary more in a sense of pity than blame, but millions of dollars have gone into the coffers of these land sharks in Florida for lands that should have been sold by the government instead of by the acre."

"If the people want to be humbugged, I am perfectly willing to let them be humbugged, but not by a co-partnership between a great government department and the land speculators."

Thorough investigation of the charges that government reports on Florida everglade lands were suppressed by officials of the department of agriculture at the instance of land speculators and that department engineers were dismissed because of controversies in this connection, was determined upon yesterday by the democratic members of the house committee on expenditures in the department of agriculture.

"The committee has determined that there are circumstances in connection with this case that need thorough investigation," said Chairman Moss, "and we already have decided to subpoena as one of the first witnesses J. O. Wright, the chief drainage engineer of the department of agriculture, who made charges against his former associate engineers in the department which resulted in their dismissal last Saturday by order of Secretary Wilson."

A statement issued by Solicitor McCabe of the department of agriculture, with the approval of Secretary Wilson, declaring that the charges against the department are untrue and that "no effort to bench the secretary of agriculture will fail."

UNDERWOOD WINS AGAINST MR. HENRY

Bryan Plan for "Money Trust" Inquiry Is Defeated 115 to 66.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Representative Pujo of Louisiana, chairman of the house banking and currency committee, to which the democratic caucus referred the proposed investigation of the "money trust" today declared he would introduce a resolution vesting the committee with plenary powers to learn whether there is a money trust in the United States.

Washington, Feb. 8.—An investigation of the "money trust" was ordered by the democrats of the house in caucus last night after the Henry plan for a special committee had been defeated 115 to 66. The caucus then instructed the standing committee of the house on banking and currency, to investigate the banking and currency situation in the United States.

The democrats adopted the plan offered by Representative Underwood, the majority leader, as a substitute for the special investigation asked for in the resolution submitted by Representative Henry of Texas. Sharp criticism of William J. Bryan for his insinuations that the banking and currency committee of the house leaned toward the financial interests and the passage of a resolution expressed confidence in the committee characterized the debate.

A roll call, enforced under a new rule, was made public after the caucus. Among those who supported the Underwood resolution were Speaker Clark, Chairman Fitzgerald of the appropriations committee, Clayton of the judiciary committee, Adamson of the interstate commerce commission, Pujo of the banking and currency committee.

The Henry resolution was supported by Representatives James of Kentucky, Burleson of Texas, chairman of the caucus; Stanley of Kentucky, Moss of Indiana, Rainey of Illinois, and Bryan, denigrators of the house.

"The caucus was the most spirited since the democratic party has been in control of the house. From the beginning there was a fight between the Bryan and the anti-Bryan democrats. Chairman Henry, in urging the appointment of a special committee to investigate the "money trust" made a vehement appeal for the adoption of his substitute for the Henry resolution. His plan, which eventually was adopted, set forth primarily that all matters of legislation and investigation of the character proposed should be referred to the standing committees of the house, and provided specifically that the subject suggested for inquiry in the Henry resolution be referred respectively to the committees on banking and currency, election of president, vice-president and representatives in congress, interstate and foreign commerce and judiciary."

Mr. Underwood pointed out that the integrity of the house should be guarded against interference, though his talk was entirely impersonal. Others who championed the Underwood substitute were not so reserved. They broadly stated that Mr. Bryan had tried to force the democratic congress to conduct an investigation of his own proposal and in his own way.

Oliver James of Kentucky, senator-elect and long time friend of Mr. Bryan, was Mr. Henry's chief lieutenant in the debate and followed Mr. Underwood in closing the discussion. He urged the necessity of a special investigation.

MANY DIE IN PORTUGAL AS WATERS COVER TOWNS

Rivers Out of Bounds Inundate Villages—The Tagus a Torrent.

Madrid, Feb. 8.—Serious floods are reported from all parts of Spain and Portugal. Many rivers have overflowed their banks and are inundating entire villages. The number of victims in Portugal will be large. The river Tagus is a raging torrent.

\$30,000 IN JEWELRY STOLEN IN CHICAGO

Traveling Salesman for Wholesale House Is Robbed of Valuable Sample Cases.

New York, Feb. 8.—Word was today received by Sloane & Co., wholesale jewelers, that C. A. Holbrook, their traveling salesman, was robbed in Chicago yesterday of two sample cases of stones and jewelry valued at \$25,000 to \$30,000. The jewelry was insured.

McKisley Re-Elected Committee Chairman. Washington, Feb. 8.—Representative William B. McKisley of Illinois was today re-elected chairman of the republican congressional committee.

CHURCHILL GETS NOISY GREETING

Unionists Parade His Effigy Through Belfast While Nationalists and Liberals Cheer Him.

POLICE EVERYWHERE TO PRESERVE ORDER

Crowd Marches to Hotel Where He is Stopping, Sing National Anthem and Disperse.

Belfast, Ireland, Feb. 8.—Cries of "down with Churchill" and "no home rule" echoed through the streets as crowds of unionists paraded today carrying an effigy of Winston Churchill. A demonstration marked the arrival of Churchill, chief figure in today's home rule celebration. The crowd marched to the hotel where Churchill is stopping, sang the national anthem and then dispersed.

To preserve peace, detachments of police were stationed everywhere. The nationalists and liberals cheered Churchill.

SMALL COMMENDS PLAN FOR AIDING DR. WILSON

Willing to Act as Custodian for the Proposed Campaign Fund.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The New York World Tuesday devoted two columns to a story published by the Gazette-News relating to the contribution of Frederick C. Penfield to the Wilson campaign fund. The World says it has heard in Washington that this gift amounted to \$50,000, but from other sources \$10,000 is mentioned, and it has called upon Colonel Watterston for his version of this transaction. If the New York paper is able to draw the colonel out it will find that the Penfield donation did not exceed \$10,000 as stated by the Gazette-News, and that this amount bears no taint. Josiah Quincy, former mayor of Boston, was the "gentleman of distinction" referred to by Colonel Watterston as having, in behalf of Governor Wilson, sought his aid in raising a Wilson campaign fund.

The writer has received a letter from Congressman Small, which included in terms of commendation to the suggestion relative to Governor Wilson, and saying he would be very glad to serve in the capacity of custodian of any campaign fund which North Carolina friends of Governor Wilson might see fit to raise.

Mr. Small would also take pleasure in going to Trenton to present such a fund to Governor Wilson in person. Other members of the delegation approved the plan.

The Wilson forces got rather a firm hold on party machinery during the recent meeting of the national committee in this city and since the conference of the party leaders in Baltimore, they say they will control the committee of arrangements for the national convention and will name the temporary chairman. Friends of Governor Wilson realize fully, however, that the fight is far from won.

FORM \$500,000 COMPANY IN GUILFORD COUNTY

Brokaw and Others Incorporate Big Hotel and Development Concern.

William Gould Brokaw, former New York millionaire, Walter R. Byford of Charlotte and J. D. Norwood of Salisbury today filed with the secretary of state papers incorporating the Fairview Park company of High Point, Capital \$500,000.

Mr. Brokaw owns many acres in Guilford county and has large hunting preserves. The company proposes to erect hotels, power houses, and to deal in real estate.

JOKE WITH RESCUERS

Sixty Nine Miners Trapped in California Shaft, Take Imprisonment Lightly. Sumter Creek, Feb. 8.—Rescuers are today making progress clearing the Bunker Mine shaft, where 69 men were imprisoned yesterday by a cave-in. Entombed men talked and joked through air pipes with rescuers throughout the night.

NEGRO ARRESTED IN GAS MYSTERY

Police Theory Is He Robbed The Men Found Dead in Raleigh.

Watch Not Porter's. The bank of Jonesboro was ordered closed yesterday by the corporation commission and Bank Examiner Brown is in charge. Examination disclosed the fact that capital had been impaired by bad loans. The capital is \$5,000,000, resources \$52,000 and deposits \$32,000. J. L. Godfrey is president and A. W. Humley cashier.

The Raleigh, Charlotte and Southern railway company, it was announced this afternoon, has the name of the system of railroads recently bought by the Norfolk Southern. E. C. Duncan of Raleigh is first vice president and E. T. Lamb of Norfolk is president. The official is practically the same as that of the Norfolk Southern.

Other officers are Frederick Hoff, second vice-president; Mathias Masly, treasurer; Morris Hawkins, secretary; Nelson W. Ruffalo, assistant secretary; Chabourne & Shores, general counsel.

W. B. Rodman, general solicitor; W. R. Hudson, general superintendent; D. W. Lum, consulting engineer; B. L. Bugg, traffic manager; W. L. Bird, auditor; H. W. Davies, purchasing agent; R. L. Payne, chief surgeon; F. L. Nicholson, chief engineer; C. P. Dugan, superintendent transportation; J. E. Gould, superintendent motive power; J. H. Barrett, general claim agent; W. W. Morrison, chief special agent.

This announcement came as no surprise and is all the more gratifying from the fact that Mr. Duncan, one of the best known business men in the south, is the vice-president of the new system. He is the second man to hold the office of first vice-president of a great railroad with his residence in Raleigh. Col. A. B. Andrews of the Southern Railway company, being the first.

The Raleigh, Charlotte and Southern Railway company, as has been announced, will extend its lines to Charlotte and may eventually extend farther south. The road already controls over 700 miles of track in this state and is destined to become a larger figure in the development of the south.

Recent developments in Turkestan which were thought to be important as possibly indicating the dissolution of the empire were popularly ascribed to Russian influences. Russia officially denied this in a foreign office announcement defining her position in the far east.

Joseph T. Sneed, father of the defendant, testified in the morning. His testimony was in support of the defense theory that Sneed believed his wife insane and for that reason would not be separated from her. He was also of the opinion, he said, that A. G. Boyce, sr., had endeavored to bring about the separation of Mr. and Mrs. Sneed that she might marry the younger Boyce.

EQUITABLE TO REBUILD; PLANS 30 STORY HOME

At Morgan's Suggestion, Site of Burned Structure Will Be Utilized.

New York, Feb. 8.—The Equitable Life Assurance society officers have decided to rebuild on the site of their burned headquarters in the financial district. A cablegram from J. P. Morgan, the controlling stockholder, was the main factor in the decision. Work on the new 28-story structure will be started within three months. A holding company will own the building as the state laws prevent the society from erecting a larger structure than it can occupy for its own purposes.

PASSAGES ARE LIVELY IN-COMPERS HEARING

Labor Leader Still Under Cross Examination in Contempt Proceedings.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Samuel Compers, president of the American Federation of Labor, continued under examination, when the hearing was resumed today in the contempt proceedings against him, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison. Attorney Darlington, for the committee of prosecutors, continued to question Compers about his alleged violation of the court's injunction issued in the Buckeye and Range company case. Some of the passages were lively. Objections were not infrequent among the defendant's attorneys.

Claims Right of Free Speech. "Speeches I made during 1908 were in support of the candidate and party which promised the labor movement relief from a system of federal injunction which had grown up. They voiced my political beliefs. I made those speeches because I believed in the right of free speech. If, because of the exercise of that right, I must go to jail, (and I would feel the loss of my liberty keenly), I will face a jail sentence and not flinch."

Compers made that statement in continuing his testimony. He admitted he made speeches in Indianapolis and Baltimore which the prosecuting attorneys insist were in contempt of court. At Indianapolis he was reported to have said: "I am enjoined from discussing this case. I may go to jail, for discussing it, but I shall discuss it. If I do not I shall explode."

Compers today disregarded the instructions of his counsel and answered questions which he could have avoided by strict court procedure.

Richmond, Feb. 8.—The woman suffrage bill was rejected in the Virginia house of delegates today by almost unanimous vote.

WANTS POWERS TO STAND BACK

Secretary Knox Would Place the Nations on Record for Protecting Integrity of China.

NOTE MADE PUBLIC TO GERMAN DIPLOMAT

He Says Recent Developments Indicate There Will Be No Need for Outside Interference.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Secretary of State Knox's note to Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, made public today, is taken to be preliminary to an expected exchange of notes between the United States, Germany, Great Britain, France, Japan and Russia which would be of immense importance in placing all these powers on record for concerted action and a common understanding in protecting China's integrity. While the note is addressed to the German ambassador, copies were sent to all the other powers named. Secretary Knox says:

"There happily has thus far been no reason for interference on the part of foreign powers, inasmuch as both imperialists and republicans have guaranteed the life and property of the foreign population and latest reports tend to strengthen the belief that it is improbable future developments will necessitate such interference."

Secretary Knox's note recites further that since the beginning of the present disturbances in China this government has as occasion arose exchanged views with the other interested powers and that from those exchanges it has been clear that all the powers concerned were as one as to the wisdom of maintaining the policy of concerted action in the circumstances.

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MORSE IN WASHINGTON; SEEMS MUCH IMPROVED

Banker Sails Soon for Germany to Take the Cure at Springs.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Charles W. Morse, with his wife and sister and Dr. W. L. Fowler of Atlanta, passed through here at 10:40 o'clock this morning enroute to New York. The banker was dressed and was sitting up in his drawing room.

Morse wanted to get out of the limelight as soon as possible. Morse sails within 10 days for Germany and will take the cure at Baden Naheim. He seems to be in fair condition and good spirits.

EXPECTS A FARCE

W. J. Bryan's Comment on the Caucus Plan for Investigation of the "Money Trust."

San Benito, Tex., Feb. 8.—"I fear the investigation will prove a farce, if the banking committee begins immediately and makes a prompt and thorough investigation, I shall be both surprised and delighted."

So declared William J. Bryan, commenting upon last night's democratic caucus over the proposed investigation of the so-called "money trust."

TAFT TURNING TONUNCANMEN

Expected Appointment May Mean That Faction Will Be Definitely Recognized by Administration.

TAFT AND ROOSEVELT FIGHT IN THE STATE

Friends of the 'Colonel' are Watching Tar Heel Developments With Lively Interest.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The president remained in his study in the White House today looking over the postal rate commission report and preparing speeches for his trip to New York Monday. The president's friends expect him to talk along the line he adopted in Ohio and are looking for a spirited speech which will clearly define the issue between the republican regulars and progressives.

That he is personally confident he will be renominated was asserted by one of the few White House visitors who talked with Taft today. The president, it is reported, said he was convinced he could defeat any man the democratic party could nominate. It is said he amplified his statement that "nothing but death" could keep him out of the contest for the republican nomination, leaving no doubt in the mind of his visitor that he expected to get the nomination and expected to win in the election. According to this caller, the president believes the business men of the country will support him.

LETTERS TO SHOW PLOT AGAINST BANKER SNEED

Defense Endeavors to Prove Conspiracy to Separate Man and Wife.

Fort Worth, Tex., Feb. 8.—Documentary evidence was presented by the defense yesterday afternoon in the trial of J. B. Sneed, accused of having murdered A. G. Boyce, sr., in support of their contention that a conspiracy existed among members of the Boyce family to bring about a separation between Sneed and his wife. Letters and telegrams which filled a small sized traveling satchel, purported to have passed between the Boyce and other interested parties, were introduced, including one telegram signed by Mrs. Sneed and addressed to Henry Boyce, brother of A. G. Boyce, Jr., whose statement with Sneed's wife preceded the killing of the older Boyce. When the reading of the documents was under way the state secured permission to read "missing link" telegrams in chronological order. In this manner a telegram stating that \$15,000 had been forwarded to A. G. Boyce, Jr., was explained to be in answer to a telegram from the young man asserting that he was in trouble and needed funds.

Joseph T. Sneed, father of the defendant, testified in the morning. His testimony was in support of the defense theory that Sneed believed his wife insane and for that reason would not be separated from her. He was also of the opinion, he said, that A. G. Boyce, sr., had endeavored to bring about the separation of Mr. and Mrs. Sneed that she might marry the younger Boyce.

CALLED BUM, SHE ASKS DECREE OF DIVORCE

Janet Kroeck's Husband Objected to Her Absence from Home as a Lecturer.

Los Angeles, Feb. 8.—Because her husband called her a "bum" for giving her time to lecturing to other people on how to raise children instead of spending her time at her home, Janet S. Kroeck, the authoress, has sued for divorce from Wesley Kroeck.

HELD AS EMBEZZLER

Charles H. Walter Arrested on \$16,651 Larceny Charge—Prominent Business Man.

Manfield, O., Feb. 8.—Charles H. Walter, former vice-president of the Manfield Rubber company and interested in concerns in three states, was arrested at Gallien last night on charge of larceny and embezzlement of sums aggregating \$16,654.

24 LOST AT SEA

News Brought of the Foundering of Trading Steamer Tatra During a Heavy Gale.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 8.—News was brought today by the steamer Marama of the foundering of the trading steamer Tatra with the loss of 24 lives off Ambray Island during a heavy gale.

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