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TAFT SQUELCHES MR. HITCHCOCK

State Library, 1911

Message Disapproves of Postmaster General's Plan for Government Ownership of Wire Lines.

WOULD NOT BENEFIT PUBLIC, HE BELIEVES

President Urges Congress to Double Postal Rate on Newspapers and Magazine Publications.

Washington, Feb. 22.—President Taft today informed congress that he did not approve of Postmaster General Hitchcock's suggestion that the government buy and operate all telegraph lines as an adjunct of the postal system. Mr. Taft said that if it could be shown that the public would benefit by receiving service at a less price than is now paid he might think differently of the plan, but that he was not convinced such would be the effect.

After referring to the practical wiping out of the postal deficit and other features of Mr. Hitchcock's administration of affairs, Mr. Taft in transmitting the postoffice department's report to congress today said:

"There is only one recommendation in which I cannot agree—that is one which recommends that the telegraph lines in the United States should be made a part of the postal system and operated in conjunction with the mail system. This presents a question of government ownership of public utilities which are now being conducted by private enterprise under franchises from the government.

"I believe that the true principle is that private enterprise should be permitted to carry on such public utilities under due regulation as to rates by proper authority rather than that the government should itself conduct them. This principle I favor because I do not think it in accordance with the best public policy thus greatly to increase the body of public servants.

Would Not Reduce Cost.

"Of course, if it could be shown that telegraph service could be furnished to the public at a less price than it is now furnished to the public by telegraph companies, and with equal efficiency, the argument might be a strong one in favor of the adoption of the proposition. But I am not satisfied from any evidence that if these properties were taken over by the government they could be managed any more economically or any more efficiently or that this would enable the government to furnish service at any smaller rate than the public are now required to pay by private companies."

The president found much, he said, to commend in Mr. Hitchcock's department. "I cannot speak with too great emphasis," he said, "of the improvement in the postoffice department under the present management." He showed that there was a surplus of $219,118.12 at the end of the last fiscal year compared with a deficit of $17,479,776.47 two years before. This was not to be accounted for, the president pointed out, by reduction of force or numbers of postoffices or salaries but by scientific economy.

Mr. Taft approved the adoption of a parcels post recommended by Mr. Hitchcock; said that the placing of assistant postmasters in the civil service should be followed by placing under the classified service of postmaster and commended the postal savings system. Preparations are being made, he said, to establish this system at about 40,000 fourth class offices.

Would Raise Postal Rate.

The president also approved and forwarded to congress the report of the commission on second class mail matter and recommended that the postal rate on magazines and newspapers be raised from one cent to two cents a pound.

Postmaster General Hitchcock originally recommended a four cent rate, but later changed this to two. The commission finds that the cost of handling second class matter is about five and one-half cents a pound. In approving the two cent rate, however, President Taft declares that the business enterprises of the publishers of periodicals have been built up on the basis of the one cent rate and therefore it would be manifestly unfair to put into immediate effect a larger increase in postage.

As to the effect of the proposed increase from one to two cents a pound, President Taft quotes from the report of the postal commission, the following paragraph:

"Such an increase will not, in the opinion of the commission, bring distress upon the publishers of newspapers and periodicals, or seriously interfere with the dissemination of useful news or information. A reasonable time should be allowed after the rate is fixed, before it is put into effect. While the news rate will be very far from compensating the government for the carriage and handling of second class matter, it will to some extent relieve the existing burden and result in a more equitable adjustment of rates."

Chancellor M. H. Pitney Who Succeeds Harlan

MAHLON PITNEY

Chancellor Mahlon H. Pitney of New Jersey, appointed to the Supreme court of the United States to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Justice John M. Harlan. Chancellor Pitney is a republican and has been identified with republican political movements in New Jersey for many years. His nomination has been sent to the senate by President Taft.

SENATOR SIMMONS ANSWERS KITCHIN

Says Votes Against Democratic Majority Were for Lower Duties.

Gazette-News Bureau,
Wyatt Building,
Washington, Feb. 22.

Referring to Governor Kitchin's latest statement with reference to Senator Simmons' votes at the extra session of congress on 43 roll calls, Senator Simmons last night issued the following statement:

"I stated in my interview that I was speaking with reference to the News and Observer report of Governor Kitchin's speech, which was the only report I had seen. That report represented him as saying that I had voted on 43 roll calls '19 times against the majority.' Mr. Kitchin says he was speaking from senate document No. 275, the same to which I referred. That document on its last page (57) gives a tabulated statement of the votes of democratic senators 'with the republican majority' and the votes of democratic senators 'against the republican majority' and it shows that I voted 11 times fewer than any democratic senator except three with the republican majority, and 32 times against the republican majority. It contains no tabulation showing how many times democratic senators voted with or against 'the democratic majority.' I have not counted the number of times I voted against the democratic majority during that session and this tabulation does not show it, but all my votes at that session on tariff questions against the democratic majority were my votes against reciprocity and on various amendments to the reciprocity bill.

Amendments Mr. Simmons Voted For.

"I voted against reciprocity and I voted for various amendments to it the democratic majority voting against these amendments. I suppose Mr. Kitchin has added up these votes and that this is where he gets his figures. If so Mr. Kitchin owed it to fairness to state what was the nature of the amendments upon which I cast these votes and upon which he indicts me, and as he did not do it I will: One of these amendments was to put cotton bagging and ties on the free list. I voted for it and the majority of the democrats voted against it. Another was to attach the farmers' free list bill (putting farm implements and all kinds of wire fencing, sewing machines, etc., on the free list) to the reciprocity bill. I voted for it and a majority of the democrats voted against it. Another amended the bill by putting the manufactures of farm products on the free list as well as the products themselves so as to at least put the farmer upon an equality with it and a majority of the democrats against it. Another was to reduce duties on structural iron and steel. I voted for it and a majority of the democrats voted against it. Another was to amend the bill by reducing duties about 25 per cent on 28 enumerated articles of farm and household necessities. I voted for this amendment and the majority of the democrats against it.

Other Amendments Similar.

"There were similar amendments, all tending in the same way, providing for reductions of duties and placing articles on the free list for which

(Continued on Page Four.)

PEEBLES REVERSED BY SUPREME COURT

Wake County Commissioners Lose in the McCullers Case Decision.

Gazette-News Bureau,
The Hotel Raleigh,
Raleigh, Feb. 22.

Dr. J. J. L. McCullers and the Wake county board of education yesterday won a sweeping victory against the board of county commissioners in the contest for the possession of the office of county superintendent of health, the Supreme court reversing the order of Judge R. B. Peebles, who held that the writ of mandamus was not the proper remedy for Dr. McCullers to pursue. The Supreme court also held that Dr. R. S. Stephens, who was employed by the commissioners to perform the duties of the office, had not even a colorless title to the office or anything to indicate that he was in possession of it.

The effect of the opinion is to declare constitutional section 9 of the health law, as passed by the last legislature. The higher court held that the mayor, chairman of the board of education and chairman of the county commissioners held their offices as members of the health board by reason of their other offices, and that the law merely imposed additional duties on them; but that it did not confer another office.

BOOSTERS OF THE SOUTH PERFECTING THEIR PLANS

Establishment of Immigration and Industrial Clearing House Contemplated.

Baltimore, Feb. 22.—The establishment of an immigration and industrial clearing house for the south through the southern settlement and development organization, which was formed here by delegates from the southern states and transportation interests, was foreshadowed by one of the leaders in the movement yesterday.

With headquarters in Baltimore, the organization will have branches throughout the country, especially in the southern states. The new enterprise, it was said, is to be in charge of a director thoroughly equipped for the work.

Discussing the new organization, S. Davies Warfield, chairman of the permanent committee, said that the undertaking was a big one and the problems involved were many.

To accomplish their solution he added, would require the exercise of a high grade of intelligence, a large amount of money and much energetic effort. The preliminary work, Mr. Warfield said, is now in the hands of the members of the permanent executive committee, which is composed of representatives of the transportation lines interested and the representatives of commercial bodies, who represent the interests of the respective states.

WILSON YARN ANGERS VARNER

Story Published in News and Observer Regarding Underwood Denounced as "Absolutely False."

SAYS THE CANDIDATE PAYS CORRESPONDENT

And that Newspaper Man "Stoops to Vilification," and Sends Campaign Literature as News.

Special to The Gazette-News.

Lexington, Feb. 22.—When asked about the story published by the Raleigh News and Observer this morning to the effect that the Underwood people are trying to name E. S. Parker of Graham as their candidate for delegate to the national democratic convention, H. H. Varner said:

"The story that the Underwood people have selected E. S. Parker as candidate for delegate to the national convention is absolutely false.

The matter is not one of any great importance, except as it shows the kind of tactics the Wilson people are employing at Washington. Let me call your attention to the wording of the article:

"'The story of one of their pet propects leaked out today. The Underwood organization, of which Col. Varner is commander-in-chief in North Carolina, is planning to run E. S. Parker of Graham as a delegate to the national convention, and they are counting on the strength which they propose to develop in North Carolina to elect Mr. Parker, as the story is told.'

"Now I have not seen Mr. Parker in several years. I have never received a letter from him, nor a telegram, nor a telephone message, nor any sort of communication, of any kind whatsoever, and the idea of attempting to elect him a delegate to the national convention had never entered my head until I saw it in the News and Observer. I have nothing in the world against Mr. Parker, whom I consider a very estimable gentleman, but I just simply had not thought of him. I do not even know who is his choice for president. If he is indeed an Underwood man I would be glad to see him named as a delegate, for he has the ability to fill the office with credit to the state. That "pet project" story is bound to have been concocted by the News and Observer correspondent and by none other.

"Of course it is perfectly plain why his name of all others, was dragged in. Mr. Parker is a brother to Junius Parker, who is counsel to the American Tobacco company, and the Wilson people hope later on to delude the people into thinking that Underwood is in some way entangled with the tobacco trust. It is a notorious fact that the Washington correspondent of the News and Observer is a paid employe of the Wilson campaign bureau, and every letter he sends out is Wilson literature masquerading under the name of news. The fact that he has descended to vilification and plain falsehood is proof plentiful that the Wilson forces in North Carolina are getting scared, and badly scared at that.

"This statement has been called forth by the necessity of nipping their scheme in the bud. The underwood forces are not going into a campaign of mud-slinging. Our candidate is a democrat, a southern democrat, pure and undefiled, and he needs no questionable tactics to bolster up his campaign. But while we expect to support our candidate with the simple truth alone, others shall not misrepresent him with impunity."

SERVANTS WANT MONEY THEY GAVE TO HAWLEY

No Acount Found of Lifetime Savings Entrusted With Dead Financier.

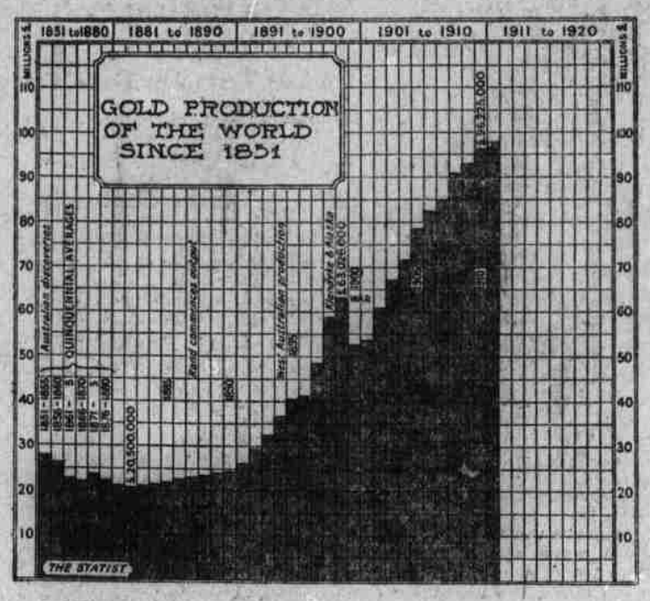
Chicago, Feb. 22.—One of the tangles the administrators of the estate of the late Edwin Hawley, the millionaire railroad man, will be asked to unravel concerns the lifelong savings of servants in the Hawley household. All of Hawley's servants entrusted him with their savings for investment, but it is said no account of the sums has been discovered. Kiami Kobo, a Japanese butler in Hawley's employ for 19 years, claims to have put $10,000 in his care, while Mrs. McCale, his housekeeper, thinks her savings total more than $10,000. Other employes claim deposits of smaller amounts.

THE WEATHER.

For Asheville and vicinity: Fair, continued cold tonight; Friday fair, with rising temperature.

For North Carolina: Fair tonight, colder east portion; Friday fair, with rising temperature; west winds, becoming moderate.

Gold Production in 1911 Was Largest in History



According to the London Statist, official, semi-official and estimated figures confirm the fact that the gold production of the world for the year 1911 was the largest ever recorded. Taking into account undisclosed production, including thefts of gold, it may reasonably be said that in round figures the value of the gold produced by the world approaches the figure of $500,000,000, which compares with an estimated production of thirty years ago of $102,500,000.

The United States has produced about $3,475,000,000 worth of the metal, and all Australia has followed close on her heels with an aggregate output of about $3,085,000,000. The lead in the race of the various countries for the highest production yearly has varied in recent years, as a consequence largely of the South African war. In 1898 Africa assumed the lead, in 1900 the United States was first, in 1903 Australia headed the aggregate yearly production, but thereafter Africa again took the lead.

Hardest Gale in Years Sweeps Eastern Coast

New York, Feb. 22.—A gale from the southwest which swept the east last night and this morning attained a maximum velocity here of 96 miles an hour. This breaks all records, the previous wind velocity record being 83 miles four years ago.

Telegraph company officials say it was one of the hardest nights on wires in the country's history. Wire service generally was demoralized east of the Mississippi. This morning snow is falling. A wireless report states three barges are adrift between Montauk point and Block Island. One barge was sunk. A revenue cutter was summoned to the others assistance.

Buildings Unroofed in Raleigh.

Gazette-News Bureau,
The Hotel Raleigh,
Raleigh, Feb. 22.

Sweeping over the city at a velocity of 48 Miles per hour, the wind last night crippled the telephone and telegraph service, unrooted a number of trees, blew down the fence around the jail, unroofed the substation of the North Carolina Hydro-Electric company and lifted the roof of the grandstand at the A. and M. Athletic park. No loss of life was reported. A slight gale continues.

Trains Collide in Snowstorm.

Detroit, Feb. 22.—The worst blizzard experienced in Michigan in years was responsible yesterday for the death of at least one person and the injury of possibly 25 others as the result of collisions between trains or street cars in the blinding snow. Steam and electric railroad trafic is paralized. Several trains are buried in snow drifts.

Wind Wrecks Dwellings.

Bluefield, W. Va., Feb. 22.—Nine dwellings were blown over and wrecked by a violent windstorm at Northfork, W. Va., last night at 9 o'clock. The wreckage took fire and burned for an hour. Several people are reported missing and a woman and child were severely burned.

Wind and Rain in Georgia.

Savannah, Ga., Feb., 22.—High winds that approached cyclonic violence in several places and a very heavy rain caused damage in a number of cities of the south Atlantic coast section yesterday. At Savannah the wind reached a velocity of 60 miles an hour and the rainfall during the daylight hours was 1.34 inches.

At Waycross, Ga., a canal overflowed and cut parts of the city in temporary islands, undermining walls in several places and causing loss to stock in business houses.

Child Killed at Greenville, S. C.

Greenville, S. C., Feb., 21.—The worst wind and rain storm that this vicinity has experienced in years passed over here yesterday. At Travelers Rest, Ruth Watson, a seven years old girl, was killed by a falling tree.

Five Steamers Swept Ashore.

Norfolk, Feb. 22.—Five steamers have been swept ashore in the outer harbor in the worst storm which has visited this coast in many years. The blow began last night and continued unabated today. No loff of life has been reported.

General Ospina Recalled by Bogota Government

Bogota, Colombia, Feb. 22.—General Ospina, Colombian minister to the United States, was recalled by the Colombian government this morning. The Colombia government took this action because, it is declared, neither the government nor the Colombian people uphold the position taken by Ospina at Washington in notifying the state department that Secretary Knox's visit to Colombia would be "inopportune" owing to the fact that Colombia's claims in connection with Panama had not been arbitrated.

The government's notification says Ospina is "separated" from his post at Washington and that the incident between Colombia and the United States is thus closed. Colombia will continue to maintain her international policy, it is announced.

CHEMICAL HEARINGS TO BEGIN MARCH 1

Revision Measure Passed by the House Scheduled for Reference in Senate Today.

Washington, Feb. 22.—Democratic tariff revision measures will be assigned for hearing before the senate finance committee as fast as they are sent over from the house. The adoption of this plan by the regular republican leaders is the only progress the senate has made in arranging for the disposition of the big tariff problem. With the chemical tariff revision bill passed by the house yesterday and scheduled for reference to the finance committee by the senate today, there are two measures listed for the senate hearings. Chemical bill hearings probably will begin on March 1.

Grant's Sister 80 Today.

Orange, N. J., Feb. 22.—Surrounded by a few old friends, Mrs. Virginia Grant Corbin, sister of General U. S. Grant, is celebrating her eightieth birthday here today. Mrs. Corbin is still bright and active.

FOR SHORTER HOURS

Chicago, Feb. 22.—Representatives of firemen employed on 51 railroads in the western United States and Canada have decided to take a vote on a demand for better working conditions and shorter hours. Two months will be devoted to the vote, with 35,000 participating. They will first send representatives to meet here and count the ballots. Then railroad officials will be asked for a joint conference.

COL. ROOSEVELT IS ENIGMATIC

"My Hat Is in the Ring," He Tells Inquirer Who Wants to Know His Attitude.

SAYS MONDAY WHETHER HE'LL GO AFTER IT

Announcement Will Be in the Form of Press Communication or an Open Letter.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 22.—"My hat is in the ring."

This is what Theodore Roosevelt said here last night when an admiring Cleveland friend sought to learn whether he was a candidate for the republican nomination for the presidency.

During the brief stay of Colonel Roosevelt in Cleveland, W. F. Eirick, well known locally in politics greeted the former president whom he knows well.

"I want a direct answer, colonel," said Mr. Eirick, "All your friends want to know, and want to know now whether you are to be a candidate."

"My hat is in the ring," replied Col. Roosevelt. "You will have my answer Monday."

Statement Comes Monday.

Atlanta, Feb. 22.—A Hearst news special from Buffalo says:

"Former President Theodore Roosevelt will announce Monday next his willingness to accept the republican nomination for president. Col. Roosevelt already has conferred with a number of his friends upon this subject and they know of his intention and Wall street knows of it.

"This inside political news came from New York through a reliable channel.

"Former Congressman William S. Bennett, a close friend to Colonel Roosevelt and one of his political admirers, is responsible for the statement.

"Colonel Roosevelt will give out a written statement to the effect that he will run if called upon by his party's candidate.

"This is the substance of Mr. Bennett's quoted statement. Mr. Bennett placed the time at Sunday or Monday and said that the statement will come either in the form of a communication to the press or a letter to some person."

DEAF MUTE KILLS TWO AND COMMITS SUICIDE

Shoots Texas Woman and Her Daughter While They Sleep.

Sour Lake, Tex., Feb. 22.—John Newman, a deaf mute, shot and killed Mrs. L. C. St. Louis, aged 35 years, and her daughter, Elizabeth, 12 years of age, and then killed himself yesterday. Newman had been employed about the oil fields here for several years. He was considered a man of more than usual intelligence and industry.

Newman boarded with Mrs. St. Louis, who also kept several other young men boarders. The shooting aroused others in the house and when they went into the room they found Mrs. St. Louis dead in bed in a position indicating that she had been shot while sleeping. The wound was through the head. The child was lying across the mother's body as if she had raised up and was shot in the forehead. Newman's body was lying on the floor and was shot through the head.

Mexican Rebels Loot Train.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 22.—A Mexican National train northbound was held up and robbed at Ahumada, about 59 miles south of Juarez yesterday. According to reports reaching officials in Juarez, native passengers were forced to leave the train and give up their valuables. The robbers claimed to be rebels.

J. Elizando, private secretary to Gov. Gonzales of Chihuahua, was taken prisoner because he was believed to have important papers. He was robbed of $500 in diamonds.

MY CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT

If I could Select the Man I Would Name

.....

Name.....

Address.....

Cut this ticket out and mail it to The GazetteNews, or hand it in at this office. If you do not care to write your name on the ballot, you can write it in a registry book provided at the office.

Results will be published from time to time and in no case will the name of the voter be given out unless so requested.