

POLITICAL PLOT THICKENS FAST

Roosevelt Wing of Republicans Assert That Dual Chairman Roland Exceeds His Authority.

TALK OF EXCLUSION SUGGESTS VIOLENCE

Full County Committee Meets Tomorrow at Noon—Mr. Grant Gives a Letter to the Public.

The political plot has so thickened in the republican household, hereabouts, that it has become positively opaque. Mr. Roland, from his dual position as chairman of the congressional committee and of the county committee, has issued calls for both conventions, as stated in this paper yesterday, and after a hallowing period of uncertainty. The Roosevelt wing of the party has set up the claim that Mr. Roland clearly exceeded his authority, and in substitution of this claim they produce documentary evidence in the shape of the republican plan of organization. Sure enough, that plan invests the right to call the county convention in the county executive committee—not in the chairman—and they set up the further claim that the conven may only be called for the purpose of nominating a county ticket, and not, as set forth in Mr. Roland's call, for the exclusive purpose of sending delegates to the state convention.

The Roosevelt people declare that the Taft folks have waived all pretence of making a fight against the ancient enemy, the democratic party, and are bent solely on promoting a row in the state convention in the interest of Chairman Morehead. The Taft people, when one may be found, respond that it makes little difference what men who do not belong to the republican party may say, and they throw out the intimation that they will proceed to take charge of the party machinery and all that pertains thereto, in the precinct meetings. The Moose, or Meese, will not be permitted to participate, say they, in the further deliberations of the loyal Taft adherents.

It will be observed that if this intimation, or threat, is put into execution against the Roosevelt folks the forecasted act of exclusion suggests something physical, and it may be further observed, that it does not take the logician to see that this thing may easily lead to the shedding of blood. All these possibilities, including the sanguinary possibilities, will receive attention tomorrow at noon, when there is to be a meeting of the full county committee to take action with respect to the doings of Mr. Roland, whose critics, as before stated, say he is clearly guilty of usurpation.

A Letter of Mr. Pearson's. Former Congressman Grant has added meat for conversation by giving the following letter to the papers:

"Legation of the United States of America, Athens, April 18, 1909."

"My Dear Grant: I have just received yours of March 28. I enclose draft of endorsement which if you approve you can put in type-written form and ask Morehead and Cowles to sign along with yourself. If they refuse to join you the situation may become embarrassing. If you all three cannot unite, the state may get nothing in the foreign service after losing the only respectable position that it now has."

If Morehead has endorsed Cox he could sign this proposed paper without inconsistency. If he refuses to sign, you might suggest Cox for the collectorship unless you are already committed to some one else. If Cox does not want the collectorship you might open their eyes by suggesting my name for that place. I have not the slightest desire to interfere with plans or states, but I don't propose without a struggle to be turned out to die in an old pensioner's field, and if I am called back again my will will be North Carolina local politics. I shall be sure to give trouble to somebody other than the democrats. By birth, education and persuasion I much prefer the foreign field, but if the boys at home insist on my society they can have it."

"Except the few months of my residence here, where for the first time I have had my family with me, my experience abroad, and especially in Persia, has been extremely disagreeable, involving sacrifices of health, fortune and comfort which I would never have endured but for the belief, based upon the assurances of Mr. Roosevelt, that such sacrifices would be rewarded. You may find it hard to believe, but I am out of pocket in cold cash more than \$25,000—because of the necessity of contributing from my private funds to the support of the American minister on a footing of equality with his colleagues. I would have been a fool to do this but for the hope of reward, and I was no sooner established here in the only respectable held by a southern man, when I was off with my head with a meat axe. This was done in Europe."

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ODELL TESTIMONY PURELY HEARSAY

Says Roosevelt Replying to Statement About the Harriman Funds.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., Aug. 16.—Referring to the testimony given by Benjamin B. Odell before the senate committee investigating campaign contributions, Col. Roosevelt said yesterday that the relation of the late E. H. Harriman to the national republican campaign funds in 1904 had been definitely settled by him in the letters published six years ago.

He declared that no question could be raised by any honest man and that any attempt to do so was to deal in falsehoods. Mr. Odell's testimony was, he said, purely hearsay, and not to be considered as evidence against his own statement and George R. Sheldon's latter. As was pointed out in that statement, the colonel continued, he had never directly nor indirectly asked Mr. Harriman for a dollar, but on the contrary, Mr. Harriman had asked that money be given to him and to Odell.

When ex-Governor Odell's testimony was called to the ex-president's attention at the conclusion of the leaders' conference he declined at first to reopen the controversy. After a moment's reflection he dictated this statement: "I have not a thing to add to what was contained in my statement containing the letters published at that time. These letters speak for themselves. Mr. Sheldon's testimony bears them absolutely out. I never directly nor indirectly asked Mr. Harriman for a dollar and he never spoke to me about giving a dollar to the national campaign fund. On the contrary he asked me to help him get for Odell and the state campaign fund some large sums of money from the national campaign committee on the ground that my election was safe anyhow, that it was essential to help Odell carry the state ticket. Let me repeat that every fact was set forth in full and in detail by me six years ago while Mr. Harriman was alive. This statement contained my letter written at the time to Mr. Harriman, and neither Mr. Harriman or Mr. Odell ever attempted to answer this communication of mine, and no human being can so much as attempt to refute any statement I therein made without branding himself as dishonest and untruthful. Mr. Sheldon's statement, which he of his own accord volunteered to make, corroborated everything that I said. I was glad to have it published, but the letters that I gave needed no corroboration."

It is understood that after some of the national organization plans left over had been cleared up the problem of the colonel's itinerary for his sweeping campaign trip next month was tackled with such success that while not yet ready for publication, it has on the authority of Senator Dixon been shaped up all save the finishing touches.

In order to cover the 30 odd states which the colonel hopes to enter in the one tour a very close schedule is demanded. In some states it is likely that not more than one or two stops will be made. As far as possible state fairs and state conventions will be utilized to secure the greatest results in the least time.

The ex-president is fully alive to the hardening of so rapid and extensive a trip, much of which will be made in special trains. He remarked that he had never supposed it would be necessary for him to undertake again such a task.

PRESIDENT TO SIGN PENSION BILL TODAY

Drafts of Waiting Pensioners Will Be Honored Immediately Thereafter.

Washington, Aug. 15.—The president expects to sign the \$160,000,000 pension appropriation today and thousands of veterans and their dependants who have been practically without the usual government aid for many weeks may cash their checks. As soon as the president affixes his signature the sub-treasurer will be telegraphed to immediately honor drafts.

CLAIM SHE SLEW MAN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT

"Furor Transitoria" the Defense of Woman Who Shot Husband to Death.

Chicago, Aug. 15.—Miss Florence Bernstein, on trial for the murder of her husband, George, was prepared to resume the stand today in her own defense. Yesterday she denied emphatically that she shot her husband. Six attorneys watched closely, preparing to be called on to testify whether she is the victim of "furor transitoria," a form of insanity according to the defense, causing her to forget what she was doing when her husband was shot as he lay in bed at their home.

WAR SECRETARY IN CONTEMPT?

House May Cite Stimson to Its Bar Unless He Produces the Ray Case Papers.

PRESIDENT'S BROTHER SUMMONED AS WITNESS

Committee Wants Light on Army Paymaster's Activities in 1908 Campaign.

Washington, Aug. 15.—The house committee on expenditures in the war department is preparing to hale Secretary of War Stimson before the bar of the house on contempt charges unless he agrees forthwith to produce what are known as the "missing papers" in the record of Major Beecher B. Ray, the paymaster whose conduct has been under investigation for more than seven months.

An assistant sergeant at arms of the house is to start for Biddeford Pool, Me., armed with a subpoena for Charles P. Taft, brother of the president. C. P. Taft is expected to throw some light on Major Ray's political activities in the campaign of 1908.

Major Ray is accused of misconduct with his clerk's wife, of having received favors at the hands of the administration because of his political efforts for President Taft, and of having been shielded from court-martials for the same reasons.

A batch of papers said to contain damaging evidence against the officer has been sought in vain by the committee. These papers are supposed to be in the possession of Major-General Franklin Bell in the Philippines. Bell got possession of them when he was chief of staff of the army and when Ray is said to have been most active in politics.

Army officers have told the committee that the papers became mixed with some of Gen. Bell's private papers and all track of them had been lost. The committee called Secretary Stimson in a last effort to get the documents.

Mr. Stimson immediately questioned the authority of the inquirers to demand the papers, which, he said, he had never seen. Before he had been testifying ten minutes he became involved in arguments with other members of the committee. His testimony became a cross fire between him, in executive session and Representative Bulkley.

Members of the committee were much put out at what they termed Mr. Stimson's lack of proper respect. He responded that the committee appeared to be trying to impute improper motives to himself and officers of the department.

After two hours of dispute Stimson left the committee room unceremoniously. The angry members immediately met in executive session and decided to ascertain to what extent house resolutions shall be respected by cabinet officers or cabinet officer answer questions of a committee with arguments.

The committee had about decided to let C. P. Taft out of the ordeal of testifying, but Secretary Stimson's attitude angered them to such an extent that they propose to go to the bottom of the case. Mr. Taft will be questioned concerning his relations with Major Ray, who was allowed to leave his command to attend the Chicago convention, where he is said to have been instrumental in lining up the labor delegates for President Taft. Before he was placed in the pay-corps by Senator Mark Hanna, Major Ray was a railroad conductor and a leading member of the brotherhood.

MOTION PICTURE TRUST FACES SUIT

Federal Government Files Action for Dissolution of Companies.

Philadelphia, Aug. 16.—The federal government today filed a civil suit for the dissolution of the Motion Picture Patents company and the General Film company. They are accused of combining to monopolize business to the extent of increasing or decreasing the number of moving picture theaters in which they have no proprietary interest.

Regarded as Important. Washington, Aug. 16.—The moving picture anti-trust suit filed today is regarded by the department of justice as one of the most important moves under the Sherman law, as it squarely asks for a judicial determination of the relation of that statute to the patent laws. The suit will test the right of corporations and individuals to join respective patent monopolies into a big monopoly.

CIVIL SERVICE TENURE PROVISION DEFEATED

House Fails to Override President's Veto in Appropriation Bill.

Washington, Aug. 16.—House democratic leaders failed yesterday in their third successive effort to override the president when they sought to pass the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill over Mr. Taft's veto. The vote, 153 to 107, was 29 short of the requisite two-thirds of those voting. As a result the bill will be taken in hand, shorn of one provision to which the president objected, fixing a seven-year tenure for government employees under civil service, and sent on its way again.

The other feature to which the president objected, the abolition of the commerce court, will be left in the measure, but the temper of the senate on this program is yet to be ascertained. It is acknowledged at both ends of the capitol that there is a strong sentiment against the continuance of the court and objection by the senate for this reason is not expected. So strong is the sentiment against the tribunal that leaders of both the house and senate believe if the president vetoes the bill as changed, it can be passed over his objection.

In the vote in the house there were many peculiar changes of front on the part of the democrats and "insurgent" republicans, the latter's votes having been the deciding factors in passing the wool and steel tariff revision bills over the president's veto. Eighteen democrats deserted their party on the roll call, while 13 "insurgent" republicans voted with the majority.

ROBBER INJURES BABE TO TORTURE MOTHER

Police Searching for Crook Who Dashed Infant Against Wall in Money Search.

ATTEMPT TO BLOCK

Brandegee Presents and Urges Rejection of Conference Report on Canal Bill.

Washington, Aug. 15.—The conference report on the Panama canal bill, containing provisions against trust-owned ships, and granting free tolls to certain American vessels, was adopted by the senate today after a futile fight led by Brandegee, chairman of the canal committee.

Washington, Aug. 16.—The senate today agreed to consider the campaign contribution bill Saturday, the bills of lading bill Monday and the vocational school bill Tuesday.

An attempt to prevent the Panama canal legislation at this session of congress was made today by Senator Brandegee, when he presented the conference report on the bill. He urged the report be rejected and the measure allowed to go over, saying he believed the bill a violation of the treaty with England and could not vote for it.

SEE PERIL IN POSTAL UNION

Amendment to Appropriation Bill First Step Toward "Organization" of Government Employees.

LEGISLATION SOUGHT BY LABOR FEDERATION

And Not by Most Men in the Railway Mail Service, Asserts Their Chief.

When Senator Root in debating the postal appropriation bill declared admission of the right of government employees to strike would imperil the government, many persons thought this was due to the New York senator's conservative view of economic questions. But it has since been learned that the head of one of the great organizations of postal employees took an equally serious view of the legislation enacted by both the house and the senate regarding postal employees who join organizations for the improvement of conditions and hours of labor and pay.

This legislation barred strikes by government employees, but was perilous in other ways according to experts who discussed it. Peter J. Schardt, president of the Railway Mail Clerks' association, declares that this legislation was not sought by the great majority of postal employees, but by the American Federation of Labor, which desires to "organize" the entire service.

In affiliation with the federation he sees the first step toward a great organization of all government employees and ultimately the injection of their vast influence into politics, together with an ever present temptation to coercion and intimidation.

Senate's Provision. The senate amended the house provision, and it now stands in this form and will probably be thus finally enacted:

"That membership in any society, association, club or other form of organization of postal employees not affiliated with any outside organization imposing an obligation or duty upon them to engage in any strike or proposing to assist in any strike against the United States, having for its object, among other things, improvement in the conditions of labor of its members, including hours of labor and compensation thereof and leave of absence, by any person or groups of persons in said postal service, or the presenting by any such person or groups of persons of any grievance or grievances to the congress or any member thereof, shall not constitute or be cause for reduction in rank or compensation or removal of such person or groups of persons from said service."

"The right of persons employed in the civil service of the United States, either individually or collectively, to petition congress or any member thereof to furnish information to either house of congress or to any committee or member thereof, shall not be denied."

The provision against affiliation with any organization imposing an obligation to strike will not prevent affiliation with the American Federation of Labor. That body imposes no such obligation. It will operate to check any development of a brotherhood of railway mail clerks organized last year under an agreement that in certain contingencies resignations should be presented "en bloc."

Mr. Schardt's View of Bill. Mr. Schardt, who is a railway mail clerk from Milwaukee and a man of proved business sense was asked: "Do the provisions of the postal bill regarding organization satisfy the associations of postal employees?"

"The provisions in the postal bill will satisfy most of the employees, but we believe they go a great deal further than anything the postal employees advocated. They have been interested in obtaining the legislative right of a hearing and defence in case of removal or demotion, and the right to petition congress for a redress of grievances, and have believed that with such legislation they would be safeguarded and protected against unfair treatment by the postoffice department."

"The men in the government service who have given this subject some study have believed that it would be unwise to give government employees legislative encouragement to affiliate with organizations having nothing in common with the service. In fact, such a movement will encourage amalgamation of all federal employees into one large organization. The next step would be affiliation with powerful organizations outside of the service."

"The temptation to use the tremendous power thus gained, to enforce demands without regard to the merits, to attempt coercion and intimidation and to inject the great influence of such an organization into politics would be ever present, and no doubt be induced, in the serious detriment of the public welfare and the inevitable destruction of the civil service itself."

MURDER PROBES MARK TIME TODAY

Await the Arrest of Two Suspects and the Arrival of Schepps.

New York, Aug. 16.—Investigators of the Rosenthal murder mystery marked time today pending the outcome of the search at Meuthen, Mass., for "Lefty Louie" and "Gyp the Blood," and the arrival of Sam Schepps, en route from Hot Springs. The prosecutor does not want to start the murder trials until he has caught "Lefty" and "Gyp" unless he is forced to do so.

Weber received a letter yesterday which furnished clues in Massachusetts.

Schepps will be arraigned Monday, along with Rose, Vallon and Weber. Rubin sent word that Schepps would prove a useful witness.

Pass Indianapolis. Indianapolis, Aug. 16.—Rubin and detectives with Schepps passed through herethis morning en route to New York. It was said the party would stop in New York state before entering the city, but Rubin would not say where.

PERKINS MAY RETIRE FROM HARVESTER CO.

End of Voting Trust in the Corporation Occasions the Report.

New York, Aug. 15.—It is thought that George W. Perkins may soon retire from the International Harvester company, accomplishing another step in his retirement from financial affairs which began with his deposition from the chairmanship of the finance committee of the United States Steel corporation nearly five years ago. The intention of Mr. Perkins to get out of finance into "the larger question of capital and labor" he announced on January 1, 1911. He was then leaving the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., where he had been for a considerable period as practically the ranking partner among the younger men. Henry P. Davison, who has rapidly become one of the leading partners in the Morgan firm, had entered the firm before Mr. Perkins' departure and had immediately assumed important responsibilities and had a prominent place in the firm's councils.

The immediate event that leads opinion in financial circles to believe that Mr. Perkins will very shortly get out of Harvester is that the voting trust in the company has just ended. George Perkins with Cyrus H. McCormick and Charles Deering were the voting trustees. With the dissolution of the voting trust Mr. Perkins ceases to be one of the triumvirate of management, in which triumvirate he was especially prominent as a leader. The handling of the company goes back directly into the hands of the stockholders, with the McCormick, the Deering and the Morgan interests having practically the control.

Although no definite word of Mr. Perkins' intention to retire has been given it was broadly hinted in authoritative quarters that "rumors of such resignation" had been started.

This is what Mr. Perkins said about his reported retirement, when questioned at Oyster Bay, where he is in conference on the Bull Moose questions of the day: "The situation was just about the same as it was when I left Morgan. From that time my interests have been more specially concerned with the larger questions of capital and labor and the relation of government to business organization. As I stated then I now find it desirable to make some changes, but I can say now that none are imminent."

PRESENT TWO REPORTS ON LIQUOR QUESTION

Tennessee Democratic Convention Adopts Platform for Candidate McMillin.

Nashville, Aug. 16.—Shortly before 2 o'clock this morning, the democratic state convention adopted a platform for gubernatorial Candidate McMillin. Two reports on the liquor question furnished the main interest. The minority report approved the old four-mile law, with modifications concerning the four large cities, including regulation, high license and segregation. The majority report quoted Woodrow Wilson, holding the question a moral and social one which should be left to the legislature.

Progressive Losses Job. Washington, Aug. 16.—The president in a list of nominations sent the senate today included Edward J. Roderique as being a survivor of customs at New Orleans, succeeding L. P. Bryant, whose resignation was requested. It is said, for political activity in the progressive party.

BOLD ROBBERY IN EXPRESS CAR

"Probably Less than \$3000" Thinks Local Manager—Robbery Between Biltmore and Asheville.

MESSANGER FORCED TO GET INTO TRUNK

He Says Man Who Entered Car Was Masked—Local Officers Not Specially Active in Case Today.

It is learned this afternoon that the amount taken from the Southern express car last night between Biltmore and Asheville by a bandit was \$225.75 and that it is believed that only about \$500 or \$600 of this was in cash, the rest being checks and money orders.

When E. F. Carr, express messenger on train No. 13 running between Columbia and Asheville, had concluded his work of unloading the packages addressed to the Biltmore office about 10:30 o'clock last night and turned from the door, he found himself facing a masked man who had him covered with a pistol and who commanded the startled messenger to open the Southern Express company's safe. When Carr had complied, the robber directed him to get into a large trunk, which is used for carrying small packages, and after he had done so shut the lid. He then took money out of the safe, probably less than \$3000, and presumably dropped off the train as it was slowing up for the Asheville station.

This is the exciting story which Mr. Carr told, when he emerged from the trunk, slightly cramped, at the Asheville station, just as other employees of the company were wondering what had become of him. Naturally his story caused a great deal of amazement around the station, and immediately the hue and cry was raised, officers were notified and a search begun for the bold robber, which lasted all through the night without result. This morning, however, the excitement seemed to have subsided somewhat, as Sheriff Williams stated that his deputies were not working on the case and Chief Lyerly said that his men were not actively engaged, although they were keeping a lookout for any suspicious man that may be found in the city.

Did Not Hear Man Enter. The train was running about an hour and a half late. When it reached Biltmore there were a few packages to be set out. Intent on his work, the messenger said, he did not hear the man enter the car; for it is thought that he must have entered at that place through the door on the other side, which was open. It is not quite three miles from Biltmore to Asheville, and the robber lost no time in getting down to business. The safe which was robbed locks with a key and it was soon opened by the messenger. There were other valuables in the safe but the man took nothing but money. It is likely that he did not wish to waste any time on things which he did not know were valuable. The trunk which he made Carr enter is large enough to accommodate the average sized man. He did not lock it, but the messenger had no desire to get out while the robber remained in the car, and in it he remained until he heard the train entering the yards and men entering the car to see why he did not appear. Mr. Carr does not know at what point the man left the train. It was probably just before it entered the Asheville yards. The messenger could not tell the officers much about the appearance of the robber. He was masked, Carr says, and he was too excited to take much notice in the short time that he had the opportunity.

Officers Had Little to Work On. Express Agent J. T. James arrived at the station just a few minutes after the train arrived, having been notified of the occurrence. He quickly got in touch with the authorities of the city and county. Two deputy sheriffs and several policemen went to work on the case. Having so little to go on, it is not strange that the search was fruitless. Sheriff Williams said this morning that he supposed that the express company detectives would pursue the matter. Chief Lyerly said it is not known whether or not the robbery was committed within the city limits, but his men would do all they could in the city.

Mr. James was not able to tell just how much money was taken, and said that it would take a good while to ascertain the exact amount. He did not think it would amount to \$300. He is looking for Superintendent Sadler of Charlotte this afternoon to direct the case and two company detectives. Mr. James stated that Mr. Carr has been in the employ of the company since last Christmas and that he is a man of excellent reputation. He was formerly agent at Marion, but was placed on the Columbia run July 21.