

TAFT WILLING TO ARBITRATE

President Will Not Hold Panama Canal Bill, One Affecting Vital Interests of United States.

THE HAGUE VERDICT WOULD BE ADVERSE

In Opinion of Senators, Who May Therefore Oppose Submission of Question to Tribunal.

Washington, Dec. 10.—With the formal presentation of Great Britain's protest against the Panama bill, Secretary Knox today got down to a careful study of the objections raised by Sir Edward Grey in the note transmitted last night by Ambassador Bryce.

The British minister for foreign affairs, basing his principal objection on the proposal to relieve all American shipping from paying canal tolls, either by exempting it from charges or remitting the tolls paid, contended that section of the law was in violation of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty and proposed that if the question can be settled in no other way, that it be submitted to arbitration at The Hague.

Minister Grey also touched on the provision against trust-owned ships and gave notice that if that were to apply to ships of all nations, Great Britain might desire to supplement her protest further.

Now that the proposal for arbitration has been squarely presented, the means by which the question might be presented to The Hague are a matter of interest. The existing arbitration treaty between the United States and Great Britain expires by limitation next June. If the controversy were to be delayed until then, there would be no treaty under which the dispute might be arbitrated.

In any case a special agreement approved by the senate would be required before the dispute could be referred to The Hague, and there is a variance of opinion as to whether a majority of the senate would permit the case to go there. Several senators, among them those considered the best lawyers in the upper house of congress, have declared that the United States surely would lose its case at The Hague.

Menhaden Secretary Knox will prepare a reply to the British note. It will be of the same friendly tone as was Minister Grey's communication, entirely lacking any elements of beligerency.

English Newspaper's Suggestion. Manchester, Eng., Dec. 10.—The Manchester Guardian, one of the British liberal newspapers of the British states, commenting on the dispatch sent to Washington by Sir Edward Grey on the subject of the Panama canal dues, expressed the belief that the election of Woodrow Wilson, who has not committed himself to support the Panama canal bill as did President Taft and Theodore Roosevelt, gives a better chance for fair and unbiased hearings of the contentions of Sir Edward Grey.

The newspaper contended that the question is one of pure law, to be settled by arbitration. It continued: "Americans, it seems, have objection to referring a question involving the validity of democratic legislation to a court abroad, but would it not be possible to combine the plans?"

"The international court at The Hague might first pronounce on the rules of international law in conflicts of this kind, and the United States Supreme court might then apply its findings to this particular case."

WEBBER REPUDIATES BECKER CASE STORY

Rosenthal Murder—Former Now Declares There Was No Plot to Kill Gambler—District Attorney Expresses Amazement at Witness' Retraction.

New York, Dec. 10.—"Bridgie" Webber, one of the four informers whose testimony convicted Charles Becker and the four gunmen of the murder of Herman Rosenthal, returned from Havana today and issued a statement repudiating in many respects the story he told on the witness stand.

Today he said there was no plot to murder Rosenthal. On the contrary,

he said, the gunmen went to the Hotel Metropole to frighten the gambler, but two of them got drunk and the fatal shooting resulted. Frank Moss, assistant district attorney, who conducted Webber's examination on the stand, said he was amazed at Webber's statement. "This is the first time I have ever heard of such a story," said Moss. "If he had said before the trial he did not know of any plot, of course we would not have called him as a witness."

Scientists Ask Revision Of Madame Lefarge Case

Say Investigation Reveals that Conviction of Noted Society Woman Was Based on Erroneous Ideas as to Arsenic Poisoning—Many Cases Affected.

Paris, Dec. 10.—An effort to obtain revision of the trial of Madame Lefarge, a beautiful society woman who was sentenced to imprisonment for life in 1840 for the murder of her husband, is to be made by a powerful committee of scientists, writers and politicians which has just been formed.

The case of Madame Lefarge was very similar to that of Mrs. Maybrick. It caused a great sensation at the time. The conviction was due principally to the evidence of the great chemist Matthew Orfila, who swore to the presence of arsenic in Lefarge's body. Another leading scientist of the period, Francois Raspail, hastened to

Tulle, where the trial took place, in order to declare to the jury that Orfila's evidence was insufficient, as arsenic was present in all bodies, but he arrived too late. Raspail's contention was supported to some extent by later experiments carried out by Armand Gautier, and Prof. Gabriel Bertrand has just concluded a series of studies showing incontrovertibly that arsenic exists in a general way in every living organism and further that the methods hitherto employed to test the presence of arsenic in bodies had the effect of introducing arsenic into those bodies.

Madame Lefarge died in 1855, two years after she had been pardoned by Napoleon III.

COLONEL FLAYS IDAHO COURT

Declares Progressives Should Raise Funds to Defend Editors Facing Trial for Contempt.

AGAINST COALITION WITH REPUBLICANS

Advises His Followers, However, to Support Worthy Measures Proposed by Political Opponents.

Chicago, Dec. 10.—Emphasizing his criticism of the act of the Supreme court of Idaho in ruling progressive editors from the ballot in the November election, Theodore Roosevelt was the chief speaker at the progressive conference here today.

Not to have criticized the decision, for which several Boise editors who quoted the colonel's strictures have been cited for contempt, would have been cowardly, the colonel asserted. "The severest criticism the Boise Capital-News contained, however, was in a telegram from me," said the colonel.

"I did not make it half strong enough. It was much worse than the ordinary bad decision. Now the court has cited Publisher Sheridan and other editors for contempt. The court has it within its power, by inflicting a sufficiently heavy fine, to ruin the paper in Idaho with the strength to hold it against it."

"I advocate that the progressive party pay any fine that may be inflicted and that we send the best lawyers obtainable to Idaho to fight the case and to give it the widest publicity. The action of the Idaho court is not only against the people of Idaho, but against the whole citizenship of the United States and the people should use every effort to combat the outrage."

"It is to prevent just such outrages that the progressive party advocates the recall of judicial decisions."

Theodore Roosevelt made it plain today that the program of the progressive party does not contemplate making terms with the republican party as a party. He said in effect that the new party had come to stay and expected eventually to attract to its banner the progressives who still gave allegiance to the republican and democratic organizations.

As to leadership, Colonel Roosevelt said the events of the next year or two could be trusted to develop the best men, who must be chosen without reference to their own desires, but solely with regard to the needs of the people.

Progressives in congress and in the state legislatures were urged to get together and push progressive legislation, but they also were compelled to support legislation that would carry out the principles of the new party regardless of what party might introduce it.

Addressing the progressive national committee and other leaders, Mr. Roosevelt congratulated them on what had been accomplished in the short time the party was organized and gave hope for the future. He did not refer to the outcome of the campaign, but dwelt briefly on the action of the Chicago convention.

He said in part: "Col. Roosevelt's address. In this brief campaign we have overthrown the powerful and corrupt machine that betrayed and strangled the republican party. Some day the honest men and women who make up the rank and file of the republican party will realize the full iniquity of which the men are guilty who in the republican convention of June last by deliberate political theft wrenched the control of the party from the people, made it the party of reaction and gave it to the absolute control of the bosses."

"We stand for the purging of the political American public life by driving out of politics the big bosses who have to come with us in order to effect the needed improvements in political conditions in the efficiency of government and in financial and industrial standards."

"I trust that the progressive senators and representatives at Washington will push all proposals of the progressive party. I hope, moreover, that each group of progressive members of the legislatures of the several states will plan united action upon the organization of their respective assemblies, upon the candidate for the United States senate and upon proposed legislation. We should support legislation that will carry out

MR. FREW CLASHES WITH UNTERMEYER

Head of New York Clearing House Denies House Committee Has 'Autocratic Powers'—Questioned as to Conduct During the 1907 Panic.

Washington, Dec. 10.—"The Morgan influence" in New York banking was today's basis of the house money trust investigating committee with Walter E. Frew, a banker and president of the New York Clearing House association under a fire of questions by Samuel Untermyer, the committee's attorney.

Mr. Untermyer sought in vain to get Mr. Frew to admit that the phenomenal rise of the Bankers' Trust company deposits—from \$5,000,000 in 1903 to \$168,000,000 at the present time—was due to the influence of J. P. Morgan & Co. Mr. Frew did not know just what was meant by a Morgan institution, but he admitted that the three men who held the voting trust that rules the Bankers' Trust company were "associated with Mr. Morgan."

Mr. Untermyer endeavored to bring out the merger of the Mercantile Trust company, which was controlled by the Equitable Life Assurance company, with the Bankers' company, and which added materially to the deposits of the latter, was brought about through the "Morgan influence."

Mr. Frew, although a director of the Bankers' company, said he knew nothing of the negotiations, which were conducted entirely by the trustees.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Walter E. Frew, president of the Corn Exchange bank of New York and president of the New York Clearing House association, the first witness today before the house money trust investigating committee, had a series of lively clashes with Samuel Untermyer, Mr. Frew declared the clearing house committee has autocratic powers, and held that a bank could only be temporarily excluded from the clearing house by the clearing

house by the clearing house committee and that that body did not have the final decision as to expulsion.

Mr. Frew admitted that a bank suspended by the clearing house could not clear through another clearing house bank.

"Then if a bank is suspended there is no way it can clear through another bank, is there?" asked Mr. Untermyer.

Mr. Untermyer endeavored to show that a bank not a member of the clearing house or excluded temporarily could not do business. Mr. Frew admitted it would be under a heavy handicap, but thought it still could carry on a general banking business.

Mr. Untermyer took up the attitude of the New York clearing house committee toward the banks that went to the wall during the 1907 panic.

Mr. Frew said the Mechanics and Traders bank was advanced \$2,100,000 by the clearing house committee. He was on the loan committee himself and his partner in the Corn Exchange bank was on the special committee of five which handled the matters of the clearing house during the panic. A receiver was appointed for the Mechanics and Traders, which closed its doors January 30, 1908, leaving \$5,200,000 in collateral in the receiver's hands.

"The elimination of the Mechanics and Traders removed a competitor for your bank?"

"Yes."

"Don't you think this is an illustration of the need of some control over the power of the clearing house in such a crisis?" asked Mr. Untermyer.

Mr. Frew objected to any inference that there had been any ulterior motive in the handling of the clearing house loan.

Mr. Untermyer disavowed any such imputation.

ALLEGES RAILROAD MONOPOLY IN EAST

Probe of Contention that New Haven Stopped Grand Trunk Construction.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Hearings upon the O'Shaughnessy resolution for a congressional investigation of the alleged New England traffic deal between the New York, New Haven & Hartford and Grand Trunk railroads were begun today before the house rules committee. A dozen or more representatives of New England states and cities were present to urge the committee to report favorably a resolution for the house to consider the resolution.

Representative O'Shaughnessy of Rhode Island in opening the hearing said: "The primary purpose of my resolution is to investigate the causes which led to the cessation of work in Rhode Island and other New England states of railway construction on the Southern New England railway."

Mr. O'Shaughnessy declared the new road "started" amid general rejoicing and the fond expectation that a real rival had at last challenged the monopolistic supremacy of the New Haven road.

"The diabolical hand of a monopoly which brooks no interference is revealed in an abandoned project on which \$1,500,000 had been spent and 600,000 had been contracted by way of damages, condemnation suits for involved property and repairs."

"A striking coincidence of the changed attitude of the Grand Trunk officials is the recent visit to London of J. P. Morgan, who, no doubt, conferred with the executives of the Grand Trunk railway in that city."

Mr. O'Shaughnessy declared that 2300 men who were engaged in the construction work of the Southern New England railway were laid off on 24 hours notice.

"The absurdity of a financial stringency excuse is apparent when one realizes that the Grand Trunk is continuing its labors in the west and has engaged 6000 men in its railroad race to the Pacific ocean, at a tremendous expense."

Wall Street Gossip.

New York, Dec. 10.—Under renewed heavy pressure, stocks gave way abruptly in the first dealings today. Steel opened with a sale of 2,500 shares at 47-3 to 44-5-8, a maximum loss of 1-5. The pressure against copper stocks was severe. American Can reached a new low point for the movement with a fall of 1-3-8 to 16-1-4. St. Paul and Southern Pacific receded a point each. Reading alone resisted the attack and made a small fractional gain.

BANKERS PURCHASE NOTES OF AUSTRIA

Kuhn, Loeb & Co. and the Austrian Group Float 25 Million Loan.

Washington, Dec. 10.—It was on the assurance that there was no likelihood of a war between the great powers of Europe that New York bankers undertook the flotation of a \$25,000,000 Austrian loan in this country, as announced last night at Vienna. Kuhn, Loeb & Company today issued this statement:

"Kuhn, Loeb & Co. and the National City bank confirm that they had purchased, in conjunction with the Imperial Austrian Postal Savings bank, the firm of S. F. Von Rothschild, the Austrian Laender bank—\$25,000,000 4 1/2 per cent one and one-half and two years imperial treasury notes."

"The contracting firms have been assured that the political situation is much improved and that there is no reason for apprehending warlike developments between the great powers. The larger part of the proceeds of the loan will not be withdrawn until the middle of January, 1913."

War Insurance Heavy.

London, Dec. 10.—An enormous amount of insurance covering risks of war and civil commotion has been effected during the past few days on property on the Galician frontier, dividing Russia from Austria-Hungary. Underwriters in London are astonished at the flow of business, which they describe as the most extensive ever placed in connection with an crisis.

Most of the business was placed at 1 1/2 per cent for three months, 2 per cent for five months and 2 1-4 per cent for six months.

STEWARDS TO MEET

Grand Circuit Annual Session Will Be Held in Pittsburgh January 4.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 10.—The annual meeting of the stewards of the Grand Circuit will be held in Pittsburgh January 4, President Harry K. Devereaux announces. Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, (two clubs), Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Salem, N. Y., Boston, Hartford, Syracuse, Columbus, Lexington and Poughkeepsie, N. Y., will be represented, although the last named place has not been assigned a meeting for the last two years.

SLAIN BATTLING WITH OFFICERS

'Kinney' Bergen, Notorious Cracksman Trapped in Memphis by Detectives, Killed in Gunfight.

FOUR CONFEDERATES TAKEN IN CUSTODY

One of Them Frank Holloway, Implicated in New Westminster Robbery and Other 'Jobs.'

Memphis, Dec. 10.—In a raid on a house in the southeastern outskirts of the city early today, "Kinney" Bergen, believed to be a widely known safe-blower and all-round crook, was killed by city detectives. Frank Holloway, known to the police authorities of the middle west and southwest as a robber and swindler, with two other men and a woman, was placed under arrest at the same time.

Chief of Detectives Roper had received information that the men were living at 1157 Wilson street and sent six detectives to make the capture. Each of the police detectives was heavily armed, fearing serious trouble with the cracksman. Holloway and two of the men known as "Tex" Wallace and Jack Monday were taken into custody without resistance. The woman, who opened the door, was seized and prevented from making an outcry.

Bergen held Detective Poppiano at bay with a steady fusillade from his pistol, leaped from the garret window, about 35 feet and made his escape in his night clothes.

Later he returned, it is thought, to secure his clothing and in the pistol duel that resulted was almost instantly shot to death.

Holloway, who is credited with being the leader of the gang, was arrested in Chicago a few months ago and at that time made an alleged confession implicating himself in the robbery of the New Westminster, B. C., bank when a sum in excess of \$300,000 was secured. He did this, it is said, to avoid being sent to Texas, where he was wanted for safe-blowing. Holloway, however, was returned to Rusk, Texas, and sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary. After his conviction he pleaded illness and while on his way to a hospital jumped from a fast moving train and made his escape.

Bergen is a native of Memphis and for several years served as a messenger boy. He was a short time ago released from the Louisiana state prison after serving two years for housebreaking.

Later in the day the police announced that the two men captured in the Wilson street house were "Country" Mitchell and John McCoy, well known to police circles throughout the country as safe blowers, and not "Tex" Wallace and Jack Monday. The two latter are said to be hiding in the city and a close search is being made for them. They are known to be members of the same gang but failed to return home last night and thereby escaped capture. Their records are known to the police department here.

Holloway's Record.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Dec. 10.—Frank Holloway first came into prominence in Oklahoma, when he shot and killed Ed. Starr, another notorious bank robber, at Tulsa in 1908. Holloway was acquitted at a preliminary hearing.

In a gunfight in Oklahoma City about three years ago Holloway shot two of his pals and was himself badly wounded. He was taken to a hospital and it was believed that his wounds would prove fatal. He was cared for in the night and later was heard from by Chief of Police Tighman, who received a letter from him in which he said he intended to reform and come back to Oklahoma to live.

TO DRAFT WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL

New York, Dec. 10.—A call has been issued by the National Civic Federation for a conference in this city December 26 for the purpose of reaching an agreement on the essentials of a model bill satisfactory to all parties interested in workmen's compensation.

At the conference held here November 24 divergent views were expressed on the question and it was with the hope of harmonizing these differences and reaching a basis for legislation that the proposed conference is called.

EFFECT OF THE CANAL ON INDUSTRIAL SOUTH

Conference to Change Relations Is Held by Industrial Leaders.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 10.—Changed commercial relations expected to rise from the opening of the Panama canal to the world's trade and their attendant influence on the industrial south were discussed here today at a conference of diplomats, southern railroad and steamship company presidents and southern industrial leaders.

Attention today was devoted to trade relations between the south, Cuba and the Central American and South American nations. Diplomatic representatives from the different nations were present and participated in the discussions.

John Barrett of Washington, director of the Pan-American union, ambassador to the United States and the Central and South American republics, delivered the chief address at the morning session, outlining in a general way expected effect of the completion of the waterway on trade.

The address of Mr. Barrett formed the basis for discussion in the afternoon by the Cuban, Central American and South American diplomatic representatives.

Among the subjects to be discussed before the conference ends tomorrow afternoon are the cotton industry, the iron and steel trade, general agriculture, general manufacturing, the merchant marine and railroads. Men prominent in the different activities will act as chairmen of the conference during the time the industry with which they are allied is under discussion.

The advisability of some form of permanent organization to watch the interests of the south in the expected trade expansion that will result from the opening of the waterway probably will be taken up before the conference adjourns. Members of the arrangements committee said that while no preliminary plans had been made for a permanent organization it was not improbable that such action would result from the conference discussions.

BOLAND ON STAND

Brother of the Alleged Conspirator Against Archibald Heard at Impeachment Trial.

Washington, Dec. 10.—When the trial by impeachment of Judge Archibald of the commerce court was resumed today, Christopher G. Boland of Scranton, Pa., a brother of the man whom the Archibald attorneys claim was a moving figure in the alleged "conspiracy" against the judge was ready to testify. Boland was to be questioned concerning his knowledge of Archibald's connection with the Katy did ruin bank deal, in which E. J. Williams, through Judge Archibald's influence, it was charged, obtained an option from the Erie Railroad on its share of its valuable coal refuse.

STEAMER IS SUNK BY A BATTLESHIP

The Centurion, of the British Navy, Rams Unknown Craft, Off Davenport.

Devonport, England, Dec. 10.—The British battleship Centurion collided with and sank an unknown steamer today off this port. The bows of the battleship were damaged and she is returning to Devonport.

The damage to the Centurion was caused by her anchors being driven through her bows. The battleship has arrived off Plymouth sound, but no communication with the shore has been permitted thus far.

TEAMS WELL TOGETHER IN THE SIX DAYS RACE

All Still on Madison Square Garden Track—Pace Slows Considerably.

New York, Dec. 10.—Members of all the fifteen teams were still on the track at Madison Square Garden at 5 a. m. today when the six days bicycle race had been in progress for thirty-two hours. At that hour the riders had covered 21 miles, 1 lap and were 8 miles and 8 laps ahead of the record.

At 7 o'clock the distance covered was 13 1-2 miles more than the best previous record, but during the next hour the pace slowed considerably. Thus far no team has gained any apparent advantage.

Man and Wife Drowned Skating.

Hudson, Wis., Dec. 10.—Clamped in each others' arms, the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Tilseth, who attempted to cross the St. Croix river on skates, were found in the river channel early today. A strand of the woman's hair, frozen in the ice, was the first clue to reward a party of searchers after a 12 hours hunt.