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The Asheville Gazette News.

Weather Forecast: NOT MUCH CHANGE.

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U.S. OWNERSHIP OF WIRE LINES

Is Considered by President Wilson and May be Recommended by Postmaster General.

PRESIDENT'S OPEN O NSUBJECT

Burleson Indicates He Favors Taking Over Telegrah And Telephone But "Will Go Slow."

Washington, Dec. 10.—Government ownership of telegraph and telephone lines throughout the country is being seriousl yconsidered by President Wilson.

Conferences between the president and Postmaster General Burleson have led to a gathering of information about the practical working of government ownership in those nations where such a system is in operation. The subject will be discussed at some length in the postmaster general's annual report, soon to be made public, though it is by no means assured that he will make an positive recommendations.

The postmaster general saw the president for a few minutes today and while they did not discuss the subject, Mr. Burleson said as he left the White House that on previous occasions when he discussed the question with the president he had found his mind open and receptive to information.

Though bills have been drafted by members of congress looking to government ownership none has been agreed upon as an administration measure while the result of Mr. Burleson's investigations are being awaited.

"There is no doubt," said Mr Burleson, "that the inauguration of the parcel post and the postal saving system has given a tremendous impetus to the desire of people all over the country to have the government own the means of communication everywhere. It is a subject involving two and three hundred million dollars and we must go very slowly in inquiring into it. Every great nation except us has adopted it.

"When Sir Herbert Samuels, postmaster general of Great Britain, was here recently, I had two long talks with him. It has proved a success in England. I don't want to make any recommendations to congress until I am absolutely sure of my ground."

WANT LAWS AGAINST POISON NEEDLE USERS

W. C. T. U. Will Ask President Wilson to Urge Such Legislation.

Washington, Dec. 10.—President Wilson will be asked to use his good offices in an effort to have legislation passed by congress that will effectually suppress the poisoned needle wielders who have been very active recently. A committee from the Woman's Christian Temperance union has been appointed and will call upon the president soon.

The rapidity with which the poisoned needle practice has grown in New York and, it is believed, in other large cities has stirred the temperance workers to action. National officers and other officials discussed the subject at a recent board meeting and discussed the subject at a recent board meeting and determined upon the visit to the White House.

The members of the committee are: Miss Anna A. Gordon of Illinois, national vice-president of the Woman's Christian Temperance union; Mrs. Francis Beauchamp of Kentucky and Mrs. Margaret Dye Ellis.

STRONG ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD LABOR LAW

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 10.—Vigorous enforcement of the child labor law enacted by the late legislature was continued throughout the city today.

Proprietors of restaurants, hotels, clubs and department stores were notified by representatives of the bureau of state factory inspection that all women under 21 years must cease work at 9 o'clock at night and the provisions relating to boys must be followed closely.

Two merchants were arrested and fined last night. All girls within the age limit were sent home from the theaters where they were employed. Factories have been observing the law for several months.

LECTURES GIVEN IN SUFFRAGE SCHOOL

Students Will Become Active Workers and Leaders In Movement.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Lectures on subjects pertaining to the suffrage movement are daily being delivered at the suffrage school conducted here under the auspices of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage. The students are young women who aspire to become active workers for the cause and the lecturers are leaders in the movement for the adoption of a suffrage amendment to the federal constitution.

Mrs. Sherman Booth of Illinois is delivering a series of lectures on "Lobbying." She is outlining the methods employed in her state which succeeded in obtaining a limited franchise for women. "Social purity," "field campaigning," "how to hold an audience," "street meetings" and other subjects in which the students are instructed.

Among the "teachers" are Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association; Mrs. Frances M. Bjorkman of New York; Miss Alice Stone Blackwell of Massachusetts; Mrs. Thomas Hepburn of Connecticut; Miss Lavinia Dock of New York; Mrs. Jessie Hardy Stubbs of Washington and Dr. Harvey W. Wiley of pure food fame.

"Act Like Loving Sisters.

Butte, Mont., Dec. 10.—"For God's sake, women, quit your fighting and go back to your meetings and try to act like loving sisters," police Judge Thomas Booher told several women suffragists who were on trial before him yesterday on a charge of disturbing the peace when the two factions clashed in an assembly hall and the police were called in. The women engaged in a hand to hand contest over the possession of a gavel.

Judge Booher dismissed the cases telling the defendants that it would be useless so far as any good to the community were concerned to fine them and that he was "thunderstruck that educated and refined women of Butte cannot meet in social sessions without fighting."

Must Vote in Smoke.

Chicago, Dec. 10.—When Chicago women voters go to the polls next spring they will be compelled to mark their ballots in a haze of tobacco smoke. A request that smoking be prohibited at the polls was made to the election commissioners yesterday by the Political Equality league. The commissioners informed the women that there is no law by which smoking can be prohibited.

Politicians announced that they will invoke court action in an attempt to prevent women from acting as judges and clerks of elections. Their opposition will be based on the Illinois law which limits the working day of women to 10 hours. They say that election officials are often required to work from 18 to 20 hours while ballots are being marked and counted.

WILLIAM DEERING IS DEAD IN MIAMI, FLA.

Head of Great Harvesting Company uccumbs After Short Illness.

Miami, Fla., Dec. 10.—William Deering, head of the great harvesting manufacturing company which bears his name, died last night at 10:55 from paralysis.

The body will be taken to Evanston, Ills., his home, today in his private car. The funeral will be held there Saturday or Sunday.

Mr. Deering was brought to Miami six weeks ago in a helpless condition and taken to his country home. He never rallied. At his bedside were his wife and two sons, James and Charles.

PUPILS HURRIED OUT IN SCANTY ATTIRE

Providence, R. I., Dec. 10.—Forty girl pupils at a fashionable boarding school in the east side section of this city were hurried in scanty attire to the street when fire was discovered early today in a new and unoccupied addition to the school. Although the girls who are from 16 to 18 years old were badly frightened there was no serious panic and no one was hurt.

The blaze was confined to the section of the building where it originated with a loss of about 5000. About 20 rooms were damaged by smoke and water. School sessions were held today as usual.

ORGANIZATION IN ROAD WORK

Road Builders Consider This As One of Most Important Factors in Good Roads.

DR. JOSEPH H. PRATT TAKE ACTIVE PART

Several Matters of Importance Discussed at Meeting Last Night.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 10.—That proper organization for the construction of public highways is a most important factor was the opinion of speakers who today addressed the annual convention of the American Road Builders association. Delegates were much impressed with remarks made by J. De Pulligny, director of the French mission of engineers to the United States, who told the convention that what the American system of road building lacks is organization.

He called attention to the roads of France which are among the best in the world and said that to organize, both in acquiring the money to build roads and their actual construction was due to France's splendid system of highways.

Much of the discussion in the convention today under the general subject of organization was of a technical character. F. L. Cranford of Brooklyn, N. Y., presented a paper on the relation of the contractor, engineer and inspector to each other and this paper was afterwards discussed by several delegates.

Joseph Hyde Pratt, state geologist of North Carolina, prepared a paper which gave details of arrangements for the use of convict labor in road building. This paper was also opened to discussion by delegates interested in the subject.

TO DECIDE TODAY ON NEW HAVEN DIVIDENDS

It Is Believed They Will Be Released or Omitted Altogether.

New York, Dec. 10.—Whether the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad was to continue dividends on its stock at the present rate of six per cent, reduce the rate or stop payments was to be decided today at a meeting in this city of the board of directors.

Wall street believed the rate would be reduced. The commonest guess was that it would be cut to 4 per cent, but that was merely a guess, for there was no authoritative information on the subject. The best indications of the board's probable action were the tremendous shrinkage in New Haven's earnings of late and recent intimations of Chairman Elliott that it might be necessary to reduce disbursements on the stock.

Statisticians figured that New Haven was now earning only about 3 per cent on its stock. They based their estimate on the report issued this week for October and the first four months of the fiscal year. The October report showed a decline of $882,000,000 in net corporate income. The surplus for the month was only $160,000 as against $1,043,000 in October of 1912. Chairman Elliott has expected his opposition to the payments of dividends which have not been earned.

A member of the stockholders' protective committee expressed the belief yesterday that the dividend should be omitted and largely on the strength of this statement the stock was depressed violently on the stock exchange. It fell nearly five points to 71½, the lowest price at which the stock ever sold.

For many years New Haven paid 8 per cent annually with clock-like regularity.

HEARINGS RESUMED ON FREIGHT RATES

Washington, Dec. 10.—Hearings on the proposed five per cent increase of freight rates by eastern railroads were resumed today before the interstate commerce commission. Commissioner Harlan, directly in charge of the case, presided, other members of the commission being engaged elsewhere.

The railroads submitted additional statistical evidence in support of their contention that an increase of rates would be necessary to enable them to furnish service demanded by the public and to secure anything like a reasonable return for their services.

WHITMAN AFTER GEO. M. PALMER

Van Wirt Goes Before Grand Jury to Tell About Contribution to State Chairman.

SO FAR $25,000 IS SHOWN UNREPORTED

Whitman Proposes to Show $100,000 Democratic Campaign Funds Were Not Reported.

New York, Dec. 10.—D. E. Van Wirt, a contractor of Hudson Falls, N. Y., was subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury today to repeat his testimony at the John Doe inquiry yesterday that he had given a check for $500 in May last to George M. Palmer, chairman of the democratic stae committee, as a contribution from Van Wirt's firm. It is against the law for a corporation to give a political contribution and District Attorney Whitman seeks Palmer's indictment for a misdemeanor.

Arthur A. McLean, treasurer of the democratic state committee, was indicted under similar circumstances last week—the fourth man to be indicted since the start of the inquiry.

Testimony taken so far has revealed that about $25,000 was contributed by contractors to democratic campaign funds and not reported. Mr. Whitman said today that he expected to uncover $100,000 before he was through.

Before taking up the Palmer matter today it was expected that the grand jury would resume consideration of the case of Thomas Hassett, formerly of the state engineers office, accused of accepting $1,500, from a contractor to expedite a payment for state work.

The district attorney will then plunge into one of the most important phases of the investigation yet brought to light—the testimony of John W. Murphy, a dealer in paving materials, that he split a $11,000 commission with James E. Gaffney, close associate of Charles F. Murphy, leader of Tammany hall, and Joseph D. Carroll, former Tammany treasurer, in return for their influence with state officials.

Carroll is dead. Gaffney is the man over whom William Sulzer said he and Charles F. Murphy split because Sulzer would not appoint Gaffney commissioner of highways. As president of the Boston National League Baseball club Gaffney is at present attending the league meeting here.

When asked about Murphy's testimony he smiled.

"I will say in reply," he said "that the Boston Nationals will positively beat the Giants next year."

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IS CONFERRED ON E. ROOT

Awarded to Senator of New York For Work in Cuba and Philippines.

Christiania, Norway, Dec. 10.—The Nopel peace prize for 1912 was conferred today on Senator Elihu Root of New York, and that for 1913 on Senator Henri LaFountaine of Brussels, Belgium, who was formerly president of the permanent international peace bureau of Berne, Switzerland.

As no Nobel peace prize was awarded last year there were two for disposal this year, each of them worth $40,000. The report of the committee, which was read by the secretary today, refers to Senator Elihu Root's work in the pacification in the Philippines and Cuba and in the handling of the American -Japanese dispute. It praises his high political and international ideals, his prominence as a statesman and his constant efforts to promote the idea of international peace.

WILL DECIDE AS TO RESTITUTION SUIT

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 10.—Judge Walter H. Sanborn, of the United States circuit court is expected to decide within a few days possibly today whether he will grant William Niles of New York permission to file a restitution suit against present and former directors of the St. Louis and San Francisco railroad.

Mr. Niles made application yesterday to file such a suit, claiming that certain present and former directors were responsible to the stockholders for losses incurred by the sale to the 'Frisco of feeder' lines several of which they had promoted.

TO INVESTIGATE FALSE MESSAGE

Wireless Dispatch That Rio Grande Was Burning Must Have Been Fraudulent.

SHIP IN PORT AND REPORTS "NO TROUBLE"

Authorities Suspect Dispatch Was Sent Out By Some Amateur Wireless Operator.

Brunswick, Ga., Dec. 10.—The Mallory line steamer Rio Grande arrived this morning from New York. The captain reports no trouble on the trip down. There has been no fire on the Rio Grande nor did those on the vessel know of any unusual happening at sea.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Suspicion that fraudulent wireless messages may have been sent out by some amateur reporting the disaster to the steamer Rio Grande today led the bureau of navigation to start an investigation. The penalty is fine or imprisonment or both.

The messages were received at New York and Norfolk Sunday night telling of fire aboard the Rio Grande and saying 197 passengers had been taken off the vessel in the Atlantic and later returned.

The dispatches, read by many wireless operators in the vicinity of the Virginia capes, were transmitted to the revenue cutter service which immediately rushed two ships to sea and later turned them back after communicating with the Rio Grande herself and being assured she was in no need of aid.

A confusion of ships' names also served to perplex those who were ready for the work of rescue. The dispatches said the Rio Grande's passengers were taken off by the steamer Swanmore, which was at that moment at her wharf in Baltimore, while the Rio Grande was reported 200 miles north of the Diamond Shoals. The rescuers then raised the Merchants and Miners liner Suwanee, thinking she might be the rescuing ship but her captain knew nothing of the report.

Finally came messages from the Mallory line officials saying the Rio Grande carried no passengers. Revenue cutter officers and wireless officials then concluded that the "S. O. S." calls purporting to come from the Rio Grande were false and it remained for the arrival of the ship at Brunswick early today to confirm their suspicions.

Every available agency of the government will be used to investigate the affair generally.

LOUIS KUEHNLE BEGINS SERVING HIS SENTENCE

Once Powerful Political Leader Has a Term of One Year.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 10.—Louis Kuehnle, for years the powerful political leader of Atlantic City, entered the New Jersey state prison at 10 o'clock to serve a one-year sentence imposed on him in Atlantic county more than 12 months ago. He was convicted of being financially interested in a large contract awarded by the Atlantic City board of water commissioners, of which he was a member when the contract was let.

Kuehnle left Atlantic City this morning in his own automobile accompanied by the sheriff and a close personal friend. Kuehnle was the last to leave th eautomobile when it arrived at the prison gate and as the three men stepped through the big doorway Kuehnle turned and said good bye to his chauffeur and shook hands with him.

The prisoner will be kept in quarantine for two weeks in accordance with the regulations of the institution after which he will be assigned to some kind of work.

To Thomas Mahoney, in charge of the center wing, Kuehnle said:

"I am here to comply with the rules and reuglations and I want to be left in quiet."

In Distress.

Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 10.—Under wireless advices that an unknown steamer is in distress on Frying Pan Shoals, the United States revenue cutter Seminole is steaming late tonight to the assistance of the ship. No particulars have yet been received by Captain Garden, commanding the Seminole.

URGING CAUSE OF TEMPERANCE

HAVE DESIGNS ON PRESIDIO VILLAGE

Town Will Probably Be The Scene of Next Important Battle.

Jaurez, Mex., Dec. 10.—Events today indicated that Ojinaga, sometimes called Presidio Del Norte, the small Mexican village on the border opposite Presidio, Tex., would be the scene of the next important move in the Mexican rebellion. Rebel leaders were more than ever convinced that Ojinaga, where the federal troops have concentrated, cannot be ignored by General Francisco Villa.

Within the town are fortified practically all the federal troops of the north with most of their important generals. Their retreat thither avowedly was to obtain money and provisions because in the interior they had been without pay and were on the verge of famine. Reprovisioned and provided with money, the federals would be in a position to renew hostilities.

Should he determine to attack the federals in force, General Villa now at Chihuahua City would have to check temporarily his advance toward Torreon, but it would be in line with his plan to leave only rebel territory behind him in his southward march.

The rebel forces about Ojinaga are greatly in excess of the number at first reported. It was said the 3000 troops which General Villa sent south of Jaurez about 10 days ago have detoured eastward and are now on the road to Ojinaga.

The threatened mutiny of the federals is being relied upon by the rebels.

WILSON DISCUSSES TRUST LEGISLATION

Program Taken up at Conference With Judiciary Committee Members.

Washington, Dec. 10.—President Wilson's trust legislation program was discussed at a conference at the White House today between the president and Chairman Clayton, of the house judiciary committee and several of its members.

The commmitte ealready has begun hearings on a number of bills and the president will later send to congress a special message on the subject. Today's conference was intended to be an informal discussion for a development of views.

It was the only conference the president had had with any considerable number of members of congress on the trust question and was taken to indicate that, as with the tariff and currency questions, the trust problem would be handled through the close co-operation of the president and members of congressional committees.

It has not been determined whether all the anti-trust bills in the house will be handled by the judiciary committee or whether some will be taken in hand by the committee on interstate and foreign commerce. In the senate the legislation will be in charge of Senator Newlands of Nevada, chairman of the interstate commerce committee.

Conferences thus far on the trust question have been held by the president with Chairman Newlands and Clayton, Attorney General McReynolds, Secretary Redfield and Commissioner Joseph E. Davies, of the bureau of corporations. Samuel Untermyer, counsel for the Pujo money trust investigating committee, is drafting some bills as a result of that committee's investigations and will submit them to the house committee.

WHITE HOUSE MINT BED HAS DISAPPEARED

Washington, Dec. 10.—What has become of the historic White House mint bed? No one seems to know nor who gave the order that led to its disappearance.

Andrew Jackson is said to have planted it and no president since that time has touched it except to pull the richly flavored twigs and leaves from the branches of the plants. During all the changes in the White House buildings and grounds it has survived.

But the place where it grew is covered with fresh earth and there is not a twig or a sprig of apparently a root of it in existence.

The bed was within a few feet of the cabinet room and not far from the president's office.

Two Thousand Men and Women Assemble at Capitol For Prohibition Demonstration.

EX-GOV. PATTERSON PROMINENT SPEAKER

Recent Convert to Cause Is In Favor of Amendments to Federal Constitution.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Under the dome of the capitol two thousand men and women representing the Anti-Saloon League of America and the Women's Christian Temperance union assembled today for a demonstration against the liquor traffic.

In two phalanxes, the men and women marched from the downtown section of the city to the east front of the capitol. Each bore petitions demanding national prohibition by constitutional amendment.

On the steps of the capitol the petition were received by Representative Richmond Pearson Hobson of Alabama, author of such a proposed amendment and by Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas.

The legislators also received from a special committee of the anti-liquor forces a copy of another resolution which suggested forever to prohibit the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors, except for sacramental and medicinal purposes.

In their march to the capitol the Anti-Saloon league forces were led by Brigadier General A. S. Daggett, Mrs. Lillian M. N. Stevens of Maine, president general of the Woman's Christian Temperance union, marshalled the women, who waved banners as they paraded down Pennsylvania avenue.

Following the presentation of petitions, which were filed in the senate and house, prohibition speeches were made. On the speaker's program were Ernest H. Cherrington, of Westville, O.; former Governor M. R. Patterson of Tennessee; Mrs. Ella A. Boole of Brooklyn, N. Y., president of the New York State W. C. T. U., and Mrs. Harris Armour of Georgia.

Washington, Dec. 10—Malcolm Patterson, formerly governor of Tennessee, who has become an advocate of nation-wide prohibition, spoke this morning in the interest of amending the constitution of the United States to prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquor in the Union.

"We know," said the ex-governor, "that the use of liquor fills no human want, that the habit of indulgence is always acquired, that abstinence alone is the guarantee of safety and that the destruction of liquor itself is the only guarantee of abstinence.

"The manufacture and sale of liquor," he continued, "is now forbidden in nine states of the union, either by general legislation or constitutional amendment of the organic law, and in others it will be forbidden as soon as the people have opportunity to vote on the question and have their will recorded in proper form. The contests in the towns, cities and states have largely diminished the evils but they have sometimes failed in full results owing to the ease with which liquor is received into dry territory from other states under the protection of the federal government, and the time has now come when the friends of temperance, fortified, strengthened and marshalled all over the union, demand that this intolerable condition shall cease.

"Civilization and Christianity now demand another constitutional amendment to be presented to the states for their ratification or rejection, that the voice and sovereignty of the people as the first and ultimate source of power, may be exercised in a decisive and supreme test to determine whether or not the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks exists with or without the consent of government."

RESIDENTS OF TOWN CUT OFF BY FLOOD

Houston, Tex., Dec. 10.—Centered about Richmond, Tex., today the Brazos river flood continued on to the gulf, leaving disaster in its wake. The flood overflowed a protecting bluff about Richmond last night, completely cutting off communication, and residents of the town of Rosenburg, three miles inland, frequently heard the reports of gun shots during the night. Evidently they were distress signals.

The total loss of life today remained at 155. Rescue squads continued to take flood victims from their places of refuge while boats from many points were headed for Richmond to help troubled residents there.