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U.S. PURCHASES PISGAH FOREST

Government Buys Over 88,000 Acres From Vanderbilt Estate For National Forest

RICE PAID IS FIVE DOLLARS PER ACRE

Transaction Result of Months Of Negotiations—Land Around the Mansion Is Retained.

Washington, May 22.—The National Forest Reservation commission yesterday approved the purchase of the Pisgah forest from the estate of George W. Vanderbilt at an average rate of \$5 an acre. The tract consists of 88,700 acres and the total cost is therefore \$443,500. The price paid is less than the average for her tracts already acquired, although the Pisgah forest has been developed by its former owner into one of the best forest properties in the country.

This is the second time that the commission has had the purchase of a tract under consideration. Once before during Mr. Vanderbilt's lifetime the question of its purchase was taken up, but the commission did not deem it advisable to purchase it at that time.

The tract includes portions of Transylvania, Henderson, Buncombe and Swain counties in North Carolina, covers the entire eastern slope and ridges of the northern and western portions of the Pisgah range, one of the most prominent of the southern Appalachians. Its forests influence for a most part tributaries of the French Broad river, which unites with the Holston river at Knoxville, Tenn., form the Tennessee river.

Mr. Vanderbilt offered the tract at a much lower figure than that at which it was held by her husband, and her letter to the secretary of agriculture, one of the members of the commission, gives her reasons for making the tender of the Pisgah forest to the government.

About 11,000 acres of land surrounding the palatial Biltmore house not included in this transfer, while about 400 acres is reserved around Rock Spring lodge, known generally as the heart of the tract and very near the famous pink beds. The title will be maintained by Mrs. Vanderbilt.

Following the news from Washington that Pisgah forest had been purchased by the federal government, it was included as a part of the national forest reserve in the Southern Appalachians, George S. Powell, secretary of the Appalachian Park association, was interviewed this morning by a Gazette-News reporter. Mr. Powell has been actively interested in promoting the purpose of this association, which is to influence the federal government in the purchase of larger tracts within the purchase area in this section for the purpose, eventually, of converting these lands into national park for the recreation, pleasure and health of the people of the country.

Mr. Powell stated that he feels very much gratified that the purchase has been made as it will add materially to the nucleus of lands acquired by the government and he feels that the influence that has been brought to bear for the endorsement of numbers of the leading commercial organizations of the country of the Park association work might have been a factor in bringing about the purchase.

Another gratifying feature of the purchase to Mr. Powell is that it will doubtless bring about at an early date the completion of many new road and scenic highways through the forest preserves, these connecting with state and county roads and forming a network of magnificent scenic highways in the Southern Appalachians that will attract thousands of people here annually.

The government is now building a road from Atlanta to Tallulah Falls, Mr. Powell pointed out, to pass through the Savannah area acquired as a reserve. There is only a short gap between there and Highlands and connection would then be made with a road to the foot of the mountain. It could be easily extended to the summit to Rock Spring lodge and the summit to Asheville there is already an excellent highway. Connection here with the national highway could then be made by way of the Crest of the Blue Ridge highway, one of the most magnificent scenic highways in the world completed through the Southern Appalachians. It would take only a small amount of work, comparatively, to complete it, and Mr. Powell is certain that with the acquisition of the Pisgah area the government will immediately take steps to do its part of the work. It will then be easier for state and county authorities to do their part and connection may be more speedily made up to the automobile tourists the country.

LENOIR BANK WAS RE-OPENED TODAY

L. L. Jenkins Is President of New Organization—No Withdrawals.

The First National bank of Lenoir, which closed its doors about ten days ago, was re-opened this morning at 11 o'clock, according to a special dispatch to The Gazette-News. The institution is completely re-organized with L. L. Jenkins of Asheville president and L. C. Pegram of Gastonia cashier. The former is president of the American National bank here and has large banking and manufacturing interests in Gastonia and that section. Mr. Pegram was formerly connected with him in a Gastonia bank. Upon the re-opening of the institution, it is stated, large deposits were made by customers and friends and everything is running smoothly. There were no withdrawals whatever.

Mr. Jenkins and several other bankers became interested in the re-organization of the institution soon after its doors were closed and a proposition was made to the controller of the currency, which proposition was approved by the national bank examiner and a special agent of the treasury department familiar with the situation. The proposition was approved this morning and the bank was immediately re-opened.

MEXICAN EMPLOYEES AT OIL WELLS WERE LOYAL

Responsible for Preservation Of Properties After Operators Fled.

Washington, May 22.—Loyalty of Mexican natives who were left in charge of oil wells at Tampico and Panuco after the foreign operators fled from the danger zone was responsible for the preservation of the properties, according to R. A. Mestas, an official of the International Petroleum company, whose report on conditions in the oil district have been forwarded to the state department.

Mestas recently returned to Tampico with five American employees. They made an exploration of the wells at Panuco also and found that they had suffered only minor damage due to depredations by stragglers after the fleeing federals had evacuated the town.

American Consul Canada has reported that there now are 554 American refugees at Vera Cruz who have announced their intention to remain in Mexico.

BLACK MOUNTAIN MAN ADMITS DRIVING CAR

Was Chauffeur of Machine That Smashed Rock Wall—Judgment Reserved.

L. T. Ingle of Black Mountain appeared before Magistrate B. L. Lyda yesterday afternoon and submitted to reckless driving of an automobile and speeding, saying that he was the man who drove into the rock wall and fence on Woodfin street Wednesday night shortly after 12 o'clock. Judgment was suspended in the case by Magistrate Lyda until Friday, May 29, in order to see what the damage would be to the machine and what it would cost to repair the fence.

MELLEN GIVES MORE DETAILS

Is Further Questioned by Folk In Regard to Acquisition Of Subsidiaries by The New Haven.

REVEALS INFORMATION CONCERNING TROLLEYS

Explains the Transactions by Which the Rutland, the Tarrytown and Others Were Acquired.

Washington, May 22.—Charles S. Mellen, former president of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, today was again on the stand before the interstate commerce commission's investigation into alleged exploitation of the New Haven by extraordinary transactions which resulted in the loss of millions of dollars by stockholders.

Chief Counsel Folk, who is conducting the examination of Mr. Mellen for the commission, pitched his questions today upon details of the acquisition of New England subsidiaries, especially trolley companies, by the New Haven. The witness first was called upon to explain the transactions by which the road gained possession of the Rutland railway, and the Tarrytown, White Plains and Mamaroneck railway.

Mr. Mellen explained that the Rutland road ran through Vermont and New York and was regarded by New Haven officials as a natural extension of the system north and west. "We bought from the New York Central one-third interest in the Rutland," said the witness, "which gave us control."

He explained that the transaction was made practically in conjunction with the purchase of the Boston and Albany.

For the Tarrytown, White Plains and Mamaroneck Mr. Mellen said the New Haven paid between \$300,000 and \$1,000,000.

"Who objected to this purchase?" asked Mr. Folk.

"The fellow who stood in the way," answered the witness, smiling.

"Who stood in the way? The political bosses?"

"They were usually standing there. I have had much experience with them."

The former New Haven head was questioned briefly regarding the purchase by the road of the Waterbury Gas company.

BECKER'S CASE GOES TO JURY

Judge Seabury Makes Charge In Second Trial of Defendant For the Murder of Herman Rosenthal.

STRONGLY EMPHASIZES "REASONABLE DOUBT"

Says "Jurors Must Not Disregard Circumstantial Evidence Simply Because It Is Such."

New York, May 22.—The case of Charles Becker, on trial for the second time for instigating the murder of Herman Rosenthal, was given into the hands of the jury at 12:52 o'clock this afternoon.

Supreme Court Justice Seabury had been nearly three hours in delivering his charge.

New York, May 22.—Justice Seabury at 10 o'clock today began his charge to the jury which will decide whether Charles Becker was responsible for the murder of Herman Rosenthal.

"The state has introduced both direct and circumstantial evidence. The law does not act upon circumstantial evidence alone. It does act, however, when some direct evidence is introduced. Jurors should not disregard circumstantial evidence simply because it is such."

FRAUD CHARGED IN CANAL CONTRACTS

Washington, May 22.—The great steel locks in the Panama canal are strong and as safe as engineering skill can make them and there is not the slightest danger to life or property in their use, notwithstanding alleged attempts at fraud in the supply of metal for their construction.

This statement was made at the Isthmian Canal offices today when attention was called to criminal presentations found by the grand jury in Pittsburgh yesterday against five steel makers on a charge of conspiracy to furnish inferior material for the locks.

Major Boggs, in charge of the canal offices here, explained that an attempt to deliver defective steel castings had been suspected by government inspectors before the material was worked into the locks. Every piece of metal under suspicion was re-tested and replaced if found defective.

The government, it is declared, lost no money by the alleged attempt at fraud.

CONFIRMS THE KILLING OF GERMAN-AMERICAN

Urban Attacked By Mexicans Without Provocation—Laurel's Body Recovered.

Washington, May 22.—Confirmation of the killing by Mexicans of Richard Urban, an American citizen of German birth, was received by the state department today. American Consul Agent Montague at Cananea reported that Urban was attacked without provocation at Pointed Mountain, 18 miles west of Nacozari.

MAV EXCLUDE REBELS' AGENT

Mediators Cannot Admit Carranza Delegate to Conference Until Exact Purpose Is Known.

INFORMAL MEETINGS PLANNED FOR TODAY

Generally Believed Rebel Representative Will Come in A Purely Informal Capacity.

Niagara Falls, Ont., May 22.—The Mexican mediators and delegates of the United States and the Huerta government today awaited with much interest some definite word as to the mission of the representative of Carranza reported to be on his way here. Until the exact purpose of the constitutionalists is officially communicated to the mediators they will be unable to determine whether or not a Carranza representative can be admitted into the negotiations.

A midnight conference of the three mediators and the Huerta delegates discussed various possibilities in this connection but it was said no conclusion was reached in view of the absence of definite information. In the meantime the Huerta commissioners were in communication with Washington and Mexico City about the preliminary phases of the questions to be discussed in the mediation itself. Nothing but informal conferences were planned for today and much of the time was set aside for sightseeing and social entertainment.

The only word that has come as to the constitutionalist intentions was contained in press dispatches, but it was confidently expected that before any emissaries would come here some communication would be made to the mediators. It was suggested, too, that the visit of the new delegate might be purely informal and that he would reserve explanation of his mission for a personal call.

Those conversant with the attitude previously assumed by the constitutionalists with reference to the mediation were of the opinion that their delegation would come without previous communication and advise the mediators that he had been authorized to give them any information desired about the constitutionalist purposes and program.

Many constitutionalists of prominence have long realized the value to them of having a man on the ground where the destinies of the southern republic are being discussed in a forum commanding worldwide attention. This fact is known to the mediators who, however, are most curious to learn whether General Carranza has authorized the sending of a representative here and under what circumstances.

Jose Vasconcelos, mentioned as the man who would represent the constitutionalists, is well known to many of the Mexicans. He took a prominent part in the Madero revolution, being confidential agent at one time of the late president. He is a close friend of General Carranza. He has been in the United States for the last few months looking after the interests of the constitutionalist cause and is now said to be in Montreal. He is a young man but has achieved success as a lawyer in Mexico City.

Absorbing Features. Washington, May 22.—Carranza's reported decision to send a representative to the Niagara conference and Secretary Bryan's renewed efforts to learn the fate of John R. Silliman, American vice consul, who had been held by Huerta soldiers at Saltillo, were absorbing features in the Mexican situation here today.

Dispatches from Niagara Falls stating that it was not generally believed that a constitutionalist representative would be admitted to the negotiations at this stage excited little comment here. It was pointed out that if Carranza did send an emissary he would go to inform the mediators of the northern faction's general aims; he would not commit the constitutionalists to any specific plan for Mexico's pacification that the envoys might suggest.

Announcement of the constitutionalists' plans, however, was received with satisfaction in official and diplomatic circles as opening an avenue, ultimately, for a general discussion of proposals to settle the entire Mexican problem.

Before Secretary Bryan resumed communication today with Justice Lamar and former Solicitor General Lehmann, the American representative at Niagara Falls, he renewed his inquiry for information of Vice Consul Silliman's whereabouts. Dispatches were sent to the Brazilian legation in Mexico City and to officials at Eagle Pass and Monterey.

"WILD WOMEN" DENOUNCE KING

QUERETARO SCENE OF MANY THRILLING EVENTS

Will Probably Be Place of Last Struggle of Mexican Revolution.

Juarez, Mex., May 22.—Queretaro, capital of the state of that name, where it is believed the final struggle of the present revolution in Mexican history, when American forces took Mexico City in 1847 the capital of Mexico was removed to Queretaro by President Herrera.

It was in Queretaro that Benito Juarez was recognized as constitutionalist president in 1858. Juarez's election was accomplished by the liberal party which had been organized at Queretaro under the constitution of 1857.

A few days after the recognition by the liberals of Juarez as president, Felix Zuloaga was proclaimed president by the clerical party. In the war which followed and which ended in 1861 with the complete victory of Juarez an important battle was fought at Queretaro.

Queretaro was the last stand of Maximilian. After he had landed with the backing of the French troops in 1864 Juarez was driven to the north. In February of that year the French troops furnished by Napoleon to support Maximilian were withdrawn from Mexico. Hard pushed by the liberals under Juarez the imperialist generals united at Queretaro and Maximilian was called there from Mexico City, and when the city fell he was imprisoned, tried by court martial and executed.

SENATOR BRADLEY IN CRITICAL CONDITION

Washington, May 22.—Senator William O. Bradley, of Kentucky, is in a critical condition at his apartments here, according to physicians in attendance. The senator, who is 67 years old, has been in poor health for several months and his illness was aggravated early this month by severe injuries sustained in a fall at the capitol building.

Mrs. John G. South, Senator Bradley's daughter, has been summoned to Washington from her home in Franklin, Ky., and with her husband is expected to arrive at her father's bedside late today.

JOSEPH WINUM KILLED IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT

Akron, O., May 22.—Lawrence Winum, 22, son of Joseph Winum, secretary of the Catholic Mutual Benefit association, was killed and three others seriously injured early today when the automobile in which they were riding dashed into a telephone pole in South Akron. The injured are Samuel Cohen, owner of the machine, Harry Gerstein and J. B. Berry.

GOES TO JURY

Greenville, S. C., May 22.—The case of George W. Tidwell, charged with the murder here of R. Emmett Walker, paymaster of a local milling company, was submitted to the jury here shortly after 10 o'clock this morning. Tidwell has claimed that he killed Walker because he believed the latter wronged his daughter.

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PRESENTATION BY

Gazette-News, Friday May 22

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British Ruler and Queen Mary Harangued by Suffragette At the Royal Theater In London.

ART TREASURES ARE RUINED; RIOT IN COURT

Women Summarily Thrown From Playhouse—Arson Attempt Frustrated By Watchman.

London, May 22.—The "wild women" of the Women's Social and Political union, the militant suffragette organization, today continued their terrorizing tactics.

King George and Queen Mary were compelled to listen to the harangue of a suffragette this afternoon while they were attending a matinee at his majesty's theater. A woman rose in the stalls and began to address the king.

"You Russian car!" she shrieked. The attendants quickly rushed in and tried to get her up but found that she was chained to the seat. They had to file through a link before she could be removed.

Shortly before two militants made separate attacks upon art treasure in the national gallery and the Royal academy, ruining several valuable paintings, and the 57 women arrested yesterday in connection with the demonstration at Buckingham palace caused a riotous scene in the Bow street police court.

While attendants were removing the offender at his majesty's theater a tumultuous demonstration took place. Half a dozen women in different parts of the theater started shouting at his majesty. One of them jumped on the stage and commenced a speech. When she had been thrown out others began.

Eventually all the disturbers were ejected. The police on duty outside had a hard struggle to save them from rough handling by the hostile crowd. An attempt early today by suffragettes to burn Stoughton hall, a picturesque mansion at Leicester, was frustrated by the watchfulness of a passing gamekeeper, who noticed a column of smoke rising from the house and awakened the caretakers. They quickly extinguished the flames.

London, May 22.—The magistrate who attempted today to hear the cases of the 57 women arrested in connection with yesterday's disturbance at Buckingham palace was compelled to suspend the proceedings on account of the din created by the prisoners.

The scenes when the 57 prisoners were arraigned surpassed in wildness all previous efforts of the militant party. A male suffragist who somehow had found a perch among the rafters blew ear-piercing variations of the "Marseillaise" on a cornet and then shouted the "Charge." This was the signal for volleys of bags of flour and other missiles to be thrown at the magistrate, Sir John Dickinson.

Three policemen were required to prevent one of the prisoners from throwing herself over the rail of the enclosure. Another woman removed her shoe and hurled it at the head of the magistrate.

When Sir John Dickinson suspended the hearing and ordered the court cleared there was a free fight. Subsequently the women were again brought in. Most of them were (Continued on Page 11).