

AUTHORITIES ALARMED BY REPORTS OF AN EPIDEMIC OF TYPHOID AT MESSINA

Realized That Disease May Spread Far Outside Ruined Districts.

CASES MAY PROVE TO BE DYSENTERY

Ambassador Griscom Presents King With Steamer Bayern.

(By Associated Press.) ROME, Jan. 5.—The report from Messina that typhoid fever has broken out there has filled the authorities with alarm and apprehension. It is realized here that unless proper sanitary precautions are taken the disease may spread far outside the ruined districts. Even though the present cases may prove to be dysentery, an epidemic is feared.

King Victor Emmanuel today received Ambassador Griscom, who presented him with the steamer Bayern, in the name of the American relief commission, representing the American people. The Bayern is loaded with provisions and medical supplies, and is ready to proceed to the Strait of Messina. The king was greatly pleased. His majesty advised the ambassador as to where the ship should proceed.

Thirteen thousand refugees have arrived at Naples up to date, of whom 6,000 are wounded. They are receiving the best of care, but many have died from their injuries and others have gone mad. More than 50 per cent taken out of the ruins after the earthquake have died, not having strength to survive their terrible experiences.

The American gunboat Scorpion left Naples today carrying supplies principally sterilized milk to be distributed at Messina.

Stuart Lupton, American vice consul, in answer to inquiries made by the state department at Washington telegraphed from Messina that the house of the "Little Sisters of the Poor" was destroyed. Two of the sisters, Natalia San Filippo and Giuseppa Buon Giovanni, were killed. The others, 24 in number are desirous of going to Milan but this is uncertain.

Rear Admiral Sperry, commander of the American battleship fleet has notified the authorities here that he will be at Naples January 9, with the first division, composed of the Connecticut, Minnesota, Kansas and Wyoming.

The latest news from Reggio shows that earthquakes occurred there today the shocks being about 20 minutes apart. One of the heavy shocks caused the collapse of a number of broken walls and added to the terror of the few survivors who remain there.

14,000 BURIED. MESSINA, Jan. 5.—Earth shocks continue here, though diminished in intensity. The fires in the city are being gradually extinguished. Thirty thousand rations were distributed yesterday. The official figures compiled thus far, show that 14,000 bodies have been buried in four cemeteries, that 9,000 refugees have left the city and that 9,000 persons still remain there.

Instead of excavating in an effort to find the bodies buried beneath the ruins, it has been proposed that every house in which it is believed persons are buried, shall be covered with quicklime.

The Associated Press had the first correspondent on the scene at Messina. He found a condition of utter confusion existing. The first shock of earthquake virtually had thrown down the entire city. The facades of the buildings along the water front in a number of instances remained standing the interiors of the houses having dropped down and crumbled into dust, leaving but small hope for the safety of the inmates. The bodies of the dead lay every where on the surface of the ruins, and limbs protruded here and there from the wreckage.

The small first-aid stations were overcrowded with injured, and scores of others were hastily established as soon as possible for relief corps from Italian cities and the Italian, French, German and British warships.

Forty-five Shocks. Constant light shocks followed the first great disturbance, until 45 were recorded. The correspondent saw one of them throw down many of the remaining walls of the city, the ensuing crash greatly intensifying the panic of the populace.

The home of Mr. Cheney, the American consul, was crumpled in the first shock and its inmates almost extricatedly buried beneath the ruins. Stuart K. Lupton, the American vice-consul, was in his room at the Hotel Victoria when the building was destroyed.

NO HOPES OF EARLY ACTION ON BANK BILLS

Legislative Program for Remainder of Congress Is Cut and Dried.

ROOSEVELT HAS FAILED—WILL TAFT

Promise of Measure Was Important Plank in Republican Platform.

BY FAV.

(Special Correspondent of The Citizen) WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Friends of a postal savings bank bill, the promise of which furnished one of the important planks in the national republican platform, may as well abandon hope of early action by congress, and avoid disappointment.

The legislative program for the remainder of the Sixtieth congress has been cut and dried by the house leaders, and a savings bank bill is not provided for.

It is anticipated that in the senate the debate on the postal bank bill will be protracted and that means will be found by its opponents to prevent it coming to a vote, or, at least, from reaching a vote until so late in the session that the house cannot dispose of it even if the senate does pass it.

Now that it is practically certain President Roosevelt will leave the executive chair without having been able to stir congress into action on a postal bank bill, an interesting question for time to answer, is: Will Taft be able to make good where Roosevelt failed?

Before the president-elect redeems his party's promise of postal banks, which legislation because of its universal popularity should be easy to secure compared to other measures promised—he will be compelled to make the battle of his life. In some ways he will have to show himself far superior to Roosevelt to win. He will have to dominate our old friend, Uncle Joe, who was returned to the Sixty-first congress by quite a healthy majority, and is as untamed and unbroken and unmanageable as he ever was. If he is able to out-master the speaker, Mr. Taft will have proven himself worthy of honorable mention in the T. R. class. It should not be forgotten that President Roosevelt, even with his big stick, fell down utterly in every attempt he ever made to "drive" J. G. Cannon.

Postal bank legislation, like all other, centers around Uncle Joe. If he does not wish the bill to pass, it will not, unless the house expels him, for if he does not see fit to do so, he is in a position to prevent the bill coming up for a vote. Unfortunately for an immediate postal bank, the speaker isn't any more partial to it than he is to an immediate appropriation-regulation or child labor legislation; nor than he was for many years to the pure food bill.

Opposition. In addition to Uncle Joe, there is powerful and well-organized opposition to the postal bank. Every representative in Washington is receiving from one to a dozen letters every week asking him to oppose postal bank legislation. These letters are mainly from state and savings banks. Naturally they are opposed to a government bank, but eventually they get on the congressman's nerves, and he begins to doubt the advisability of ignoring the requests of the bankers. He very seldom receives a letter from a constituent favoring postal banks, because the average citizen seldom goes to the trouble to write his representative in Washington on behalf of the public. This is unfortunate. Nothing impresses a congressman more than letters from voters in his district. The corporations invariably see to it their views on every question of legislation are ably presented to the lawmaker, but the latter does not generally secure the views of the people on pending legislation unless he goes out and searches for them.

Some of the smaller banks, especially those that are not national, are not only opposed to the postal savings bank idea, but they are enlisting the support of the small business men, the stock raises and farmers who are in business relations with them. The argument is being made that by the operation of the postal savings plan, the selection of the other officers for the house resulted as follows: principal clerk, L. G. Cobb, of Morganton; reading clerk, R. M. Phillips, of Lee county; engrossing clerk, M. D. Kinland of Wayneville; sergeant-at-arms, Geo. L. Kilpatrick, of Lenoir.

HAMBURG STARTS TO ITALY'S AID NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—Laden with twenty-five tons of clothing and more than 12 tons of provisions with which to clothe and feed the starving and half-naked survivors of the Calabria and Sicily earthquakes, and carrying homeward over 300 Italians of all classes, most of whom are hurrying to the scene where their loved ones have been killed, maimed or rendered destitute.

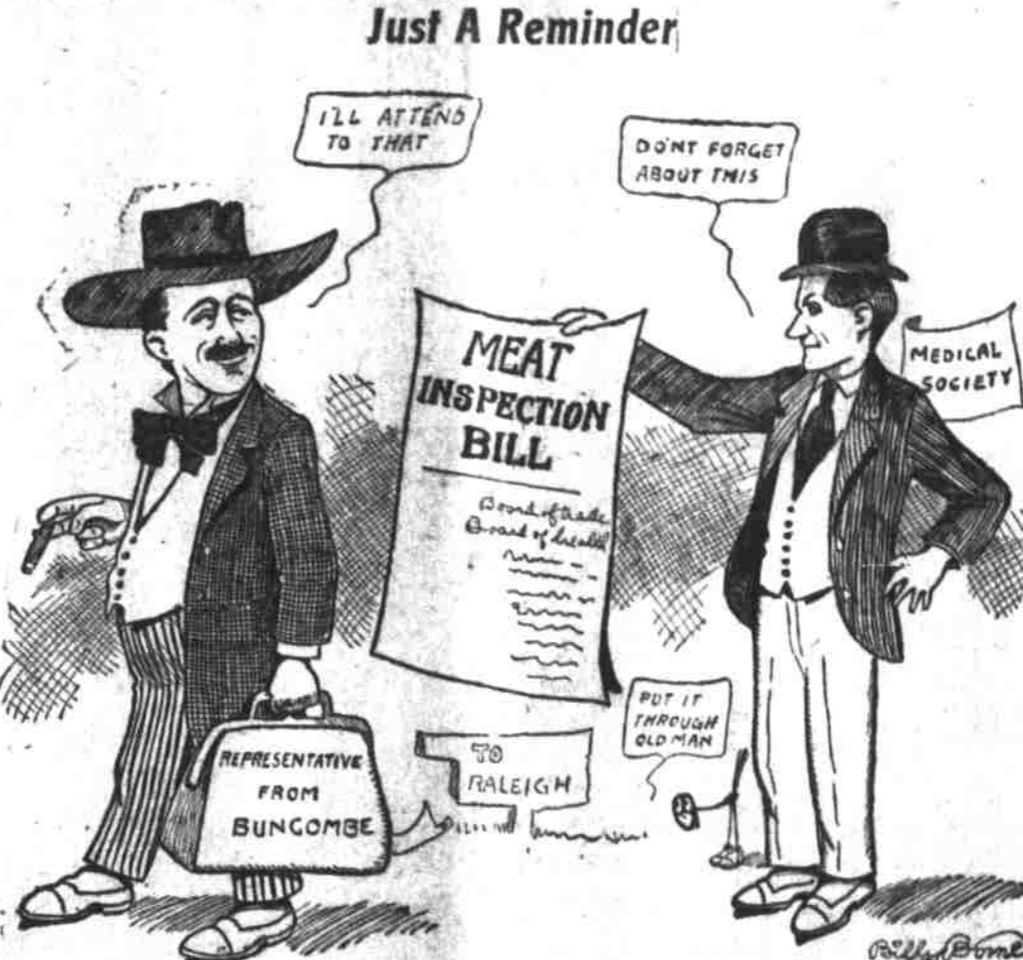
WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Forecast for North Carolina: Fair and decidedly colder Wednesday and Thursday. Cold wave in western portion Wednesday; brisk northwest wind.

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GRAHAM WINS IN FIGHT FOR SPEAKERSHIP

Granville Representative Will Preside Over Coming Session of Legislature.

KLUTZ PRESIDENT PRO-TEM OF SENATE

Republicans Nominate J. J. Britt and M. N. Harshaw, Who Will Be Leaders.

(Special to The Citizen)

RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 5.—Ex-Judge Augustus W. Graham of Granville county won the speakership of the house of representatives in the democratic caucus tonight, his election being on the third ballot. The vote was, Graham 45, Dowd 36, Hayes 2.

Just 49 years ago, Judge Graham's father was elected speaker of the house by the first caucus held in the new hall of the new capital.

On the first ballot, Dowd received 28, Graham 21, Hayes 19, on the second, Dowd 33, Graham 36, and Hayes 11. The balloting was rapid and with considerable animation. When the result was announced, Representative Greer, of Mecklenburg, a Dowd supporter, moved that the election be made unanimous and this went through by acclamation.

The caucus of democratic members of the senate resulted in the selection of Whitehead Klutz for president pro-tem. He had no opposition.

Other officers chosen were: principal clerk, A. J. Maxwell, of Graves; reading clerk, Mark Squires, of Lenoir; engrossing clerk, W. E. Hooks, of Greenville; sergeant-at-arms, H. Steley, of Wilkesboro; assistant, Nick Deber of Raleigh. Senator J. A. Long of Pearson, was made chairman of the senate caucus and J. L. Barham, of Wayne secretary.

Republican Caucus. The caucus of the republican members selected their candidates for offices in the house and the senate and discussed at length the party policies to be observed during the session. J. J. Britt, of Asheville, was named for president pro-tem of the senate and M. N. Harshaw, for speaker of the house. These in consequence to be the recognized party leaders in the two legislative bodies.

In the joint caucus, it was the consensus of opinion that the legislature should re-enact the revenue bill with whatever changes are necessary, should re-enact the revenue bill and provide for state institutions and adjourn within thirty days. They declined for consideration in legislation and pronounced the legislature at this a time menace to the business interests of the state.

Representative Murphy, of Guilford, nominated Mr. Hayes, B. A. Dougherty nominated Mr. Dowd, and T. L. Currie, of Cumberland nominated Mr. Graham.

The selection of the other officers for the house resulted as follows: principal clerk, L. G. Cobb, of Morganton; reading clerk, R. M. Phillips, of Lee county; engrossing clerk, M. D. Kinland of Wayneville; sergeant-at-arms, Geo. L. Kilpatrick, of Lenoir.

WIDOW OF CAPT. RANKEN BREAKS DOWN IN COURT

Sobs Piteously as Attorney Pays Tribute to Memory of Husband.

"NIGHT RIDER" HISTORY TRACED

Case Should Go Before Jury by About Noon Tomorrow.

(By Associated Press.)

UNION CITY, TENN., Jan. 5.—Argument on behalf of the defense, in the case of the eight alleged night riders, charged with the murder of Captain Quentin Ranken, will begin tomorrow after court opens tomorrow. The case should go to the jury about noon Thursday, when Attorney General Caldwell has concluded the final argument for the prosecution.

For the first time during the trial Mrs. Quentin Ranken, widow of the man for whose murder the eight alleged night riders are on trial, was in court today when the arguments began. Accompanied by a score or more of women friends, Mrs. Ranken was escorted to a seat within the bar. She was clad in deep mourning.

Major Hal Holmes opened for the state. As the attorney in an eloquent way pictured Captain Ranken as one of the cleanest, purest men in Tennessee and described his fearful end, Mrs. Ranken broke down, and leaning her heavily veiled head upon the shoulder of her sister, the little widow sobbed piteously. Two of the accused men gazed closely at her, their faces working involuntarily. They were Ed Burton and Iola Hoffman. The latter is the man who, according to at least two witnesses fired the shot that pierced Captain Ranken's heart as he was hanging, slowly strangling to death, from the forked tree at Walnut Log.

Mrs. Ranken raised her head a moment and caught sight of the faces of the two men as they looked at her. She shivered and turned her face away. The defendants looked back to their seats and did not again look at Mrs. Ranken.

Jury foreman was able to be in court again today, though he has a fully developed case of pneumonia and evidently suffered considerably.

Major Holmes in his argument traced the history of the night riders from the time they organized until an hour after the murder of Captain Ranken, when according to witnesses Garrett Johnson, one of the accused night riders, said: "Burn the bridges and keep a still tongue about this night's business because there's going to be hell about it."

JUDGE SAUNDERS RESIGNS.

(By Associated Press.) NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 5.—Hon. Eugene D. Saunders, judge of the United States court for the eastern district of Louisiana, sent in his resignation tonight to the president.



CASE AGAINST HARRIMAN R.R. MERGER BEGINS

Paul Morton First Witness in Suit to Dissolve So-Called Merger.

HEARING DELAYED SEVERAL WEEKS

Monopolizing of Transportation of Far West, Is the Charge.

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—Delayed for several weeks by the illness of former Judge Lovell, counsel for the defense in the hearings in the government's suit to dissolve the so-called Harriman railroad merger, were begun in earnest today with Paul Morton, president of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, as the first witness. Mr. Morton, who was from 1896 to 1904 vice president of the Atchafalaya, Topeka and Santa Fe, one of the defendant companies with the Union Pacific, the Southern Pacific and others in the alleged combination, was called by the government in support of its contention that the alleged merger had secured a monopoly of the transportation business of the far West in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

Mr. Morton describing the situation as regards freight shipments between the central states and the Pacific coast prior to 1905, when the alleged combination was formed, and after that time, he said that in the earlier period the Northern Pacific, the Union and Southern Pacific and the Great Northern railroads had been in competition for transcontinental business. The Rock Island system before building into El Paso had connected with the Union Pacific at Omaha and the Denver Rio Grande at Pueblo, he said.

Controlled situation. "The situation," said Mr. Morton, "was apparently controlled by the Southern Pacific, which controlled the rate-making power."

"It is your opinion," he was asked, "that before the Union Pacific purchased a large amount of Southern Pacific stock, the two roads were in competition?"

"I believe so," was the reply. "The witness was asked whether the Sunset route and the Union Pacific had not competed for business under the 'old regime'?"

"Yes," replied the witness. "They did in New York."

But these charges have been amalgamated in Chicago."

"Yes," the competition never amounted to much there anyhow."

"You've made rates yourself in the old days without consulting any one else, you don't?" asked the government counsel.

Taft Speaks on Influence of the Church

Gives Views of Its Usefulness in Aiding Governmental Progress.

HIS OPINION ON NEGRO EDUCATION

J. Elwood Cox Sees Taft About North Carolina Judgeship Matter.

(By Associated Press.)

AUGUSTA, GA., Jan. 5.—To the protestant minister of Augusta, President-elect Taft today expressed his views regarding the influence of the church upon civilization and its usefulness in aiding governmental progress. His talk might be regarded as an interesting induction to the general discussion indulged in regarding his religious belief.

The ministers had extended Mr. Taft a cordial welcome and expressed a desire to arrange a reception for him, their manifestation of friendliness being concluded with prayer. Mr. Taft began by thanking them for their good will and their prayers, adding "in carrying on the burden of a government, which with its increasing usefulness necessarily entails greater tasks, they who are charged with its execution need every assistance and sympathy."

Mr. Taft referred to the "moral awakenings" during the past four years as an indication of the healthful state of our civilization. The people had demanded a moral reform, and in this, he said, the clergy "must take an important part." In his experiences in the North and South, and in the Philippines, Mr. Taft said he had been able to study many different phases of civilization, especially in the matter of church influence.

"Leaving out the sectional distinctions," he continued, "the indispensable presence of church influence in the improvement of our civilization, no one can be blind to who has shared in the slightest the responsibility for improvement in a people, as I have that was responsible in respect to the race that is now in a state of Christian tutelage and must be uplifted in my judgment by us and through our influence before we shall have discharged the obligation that Providence has thrust upon us. And in the study of the development it has been made known to me the enormous influence that the church must exercise in order to make our progress there effective."

"Ban Removed." The Roman Catholic church was there for years, and preserved that state of Christian tutelage to which I have referred. Now the ban has been removed from other denominations, and they are all in there on an equality in the spirit of Christian emulation, attempting to uplift those people, and we for the government by a system of secular education, are aiding that uplifting; but without the moral influence of the churches there we could not accomplish anything. It is that spirit of experience by which there is borne in upon us the importance of the maintenance of a church and its influence at all hazards.

"It is difficult some times to explain to one who has been used to the close union of church and state, such as is preserved in Spain, such as is preserved in some other countries the real attitude of the American government toward the church. He assumes that if we separate the church from the state it means that the state does not favor the church. I had the honor to represent this country in a transaction of a business character with Leo XIII, at the Vatican and there I pointed out to him, with all the emphasis possible that the separation of the church and state was in the interest of the church and that in America he could count on the sustaining of the rights of the church and its encouragement by every legitimate means on the part of the people, without its assuming any governmental function, if it had any governmental rights such as it has in some other countries. It comes over me every once in a while where I am charged with accomplishing something among a people, now absolutely essential to it that we should have the influence of the church behind everything that we do."

The clergymen in their talk had referred to negro education and at this point in his reply Mr. Taft remarked that his previous statement was one of his strong reasons for advocating the maintenance of excellent universities in the South for the education of the negro.

"There was competition then?" "It was illegitimate competition." Mr. Morton was still on the stand when adjournment was taken until tomorrow.

SENTENCED TO STATE'S PRISON (By Associated Press.) NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—For his part in the dispatching of the steamer Goldboro to Honduras last spring, with \$50,000 worth of goods said to have been obtained under false pretenses, Albert W. Bailey, formerly secretary-treasurer of the defunct Export Shipping company, of this city, today was sentenced to state's prison for not less than four years and six months, or more than six years and eight months.

PROBING OF BROWNSVILLE AFFRAY COSTLY

Government Has Already Paid \$15,000 to Private Detective Agencies.

ACCORDING TO SEC'Y. WRIGHT

Response to Foraker's Resolution Asking About Employment of Two Men.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—It has cost the government \$15,000 already in the employment of private detective agencies to investigate the Brownsville affray and the contracts with these agencies are still in force.

This information was received by the Senate today from Secretary of War Wright, in response to the Foraker resolution, asking when and by what authority in law, Herbert J. Brown and W. O. Baldwin of Roanoke, were employed. It was the report of Brown and Baldwin on which President Roosevelt based a recent message to congress declaring that the guilt of certain of the discharged negro soldiers had been fixed beyond a shadow of a doubt, and this report was attacked by Senator Foraker in a speech on the floor of the senate.

Attached to the report was a confidential letter from President-elect Taft, then secretary of war, under date of April 14, 1908, urging the president to make the original contract with Brown and Baldwin. In that letter Mr. Taft said:

"The Brownsville investigation before the senate while it establishes beyond any reasonable doubt the correctness of the conclusion reached by you on the report of the inspectors of the army and other evidence has done nothing to identify the particular members of the battalion who did the shooting or who were accessories before or after the fact."

The contract recommended by Mr. Taft was for the payment of \$5,000 in four weekly installments. Ordinary agencies at the disposal of the executive, says Secretary Wright were not completely successful, especially in determining what particular individuals had been engaged in the Brownsville affray as participants. Considerable difficulty was experienced in locating the former members of the negro battalion, according to Secretary Wright's letter, but before the expiration of the first contract sufficient information had been obtained, he says, to warrant the department in continuing the investigation by the same persons.

In September 1908 a supplemental agreement was entered into calling for the payment of \$5,000 and on December 5, a third contract was made calling for a further payment of \$5,000, making a total of \$15,000 in all under the three contracts. The full amount involved in the three contracts was paid between April 24, and January 2, last, in ten installments varying in amounts from \$1,000 to \$2500.

ENGINEER AND FIREMAN KILLED

(By Associated Press.) HINTON, W. VA., Jan. 5.—Passenger train No. 1, due here early today and running three hours late, ran into an open switch at Caperton, 20 miles west of Hinton, killing Engineer Thomas Edwards, next to the oldest engineer on the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, and Fireman Peter Treml, residents of Hinton. The train, engine and four cars were derailed. Express Messenger W. L. Cronshaw, was slightly injured, but none of the passengers were seriously injured.

W. E. Waugh, of Shelbyville, Ky.; A. C. Miller, of Kimborton, Ind., and Paul Dean, a negro, were cut about the head.

THREE INJURED IN HOTEL FIRE NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Jan. 5.—Fire was discovered early today in the Columbia hotel, a five-story brick structure. The seventy guests all got out safely, but two employes, Lydia Billings, an Indian, aged 21 and Mary Swaczek, aged 17, were found later unconscious in an alley where they were endeavoring to descend from the fourth floor. Miss Billings' legs were broken and she was injured internally. Mary Swaczek was badly injured about the ankle and feet. William King was badly burned. The property loss is about \$15,000.

ORVILLE WRIGHT SAILS TO FRANCE TO JOIN BROTHER

(By Associated Press.) NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—Orville Wright the aviator, accompanied by his sister, Miss Katherine Wright, sailed today for France, where he will join his brother Wilbur. "I do not believe the aeroplane will ever take the place of trains or steamships for the carrying of passengers," said Mr. Wright just before sailing.

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