

"I Would Do The Same Thing Over" Says The Colonel

Called to Tell of The Absorption of Tennessee Company by Steel Trust He Declared He Acted on His Own Initiative.

Declares His Only Aim in Permitting the Merger Was to Stop the Panic--Never Stopped to Question Motives of Wall Street Counsellors.

New York, Aug. 5.—I wish it distinctly understood that I acted purely on my own initiative and that the responsibility for the act was solely mine. "If the same situation should face me again I would do exactly what I did then."

These declarations were made today by Theodore Roosevelt in the most unprecedented event in American history. The only living ex-president of the United States gave utterance to them before a congressional committee in the course of an explanation he was making of one of his official acts. That act was his official sanction of the absorption of the Tennessee Coal & Iron Company by the United States Steel Corporation at the solicitation of two of the highest officers of that giant combine.

"If I withheld my consent I do not doubt that the steel corporation would not have purchased the Tennessee Coal & Iron Company," declared the ex-president when a question on that point was put squarely to him by Representative Bartlett, of Georgia, a member of the congressional committee that is investigating the steel trust, and which for ten days has been holding hearings in New York for the special purpose of developing all the facts connected with the absorption by the trust of its only great rival in the United States, contrary, as the majority of the committee frankly proclaimed, to the spirit and letter of the Sherman anti-trust.

His Appearance Unheralded. Colonel Roosevelt's appearance in the finance committee room of the aldermanic chamber at the city hall, where the investigators have been holding their sessions, was unheralded and unexpected by everybody except the members of the probing committee. It was not decided until late Friday night that he would take the witness stand. Chairman Stanley had extended an invitation to him Friday afternoon to avail himself of the opportunity, if he so desired, to enlighten the world as to his reason for licensing, while he was president, the steel trust to buy its only competitor, but not until almost midnight of that day was the invitation definitely accepted. Only a few minutes before his arrival did the rumor spread that he was being looked for. Although the room was filled with a crowd of the usual dimensions that daily have followed the committee's proceedings, not one of the hundred or more persons rose to his feet when the ex-president entered, smiling and stopping every few steps to grasp an outstretched hand. Not a cheer rent the air; not a crackle of handclap greeted him when he entered or departed. "While he was talking the silence of the tomb reigned, except at long intervals when the tension of the moment expressed itself in nervous titters that ran round the room. Occasional sharp exclamations between the illustrious witness and his inquisitors provoked outbursts of laughter, in which the ex-president usually led.

The Moroccan Situation May Cause Resignation of Two German Statesmen

London, Aug. 5.—While the reported agreement announced between France and Germany is supposed to have cleared the way for amicable settlement of the Moroccan dispute, it is believed in London that the situation is still fraught with complications, one of the complications being the resignation of the German foreign secretary, and Herr von Kintner-Waechter, the German foreign secretary, are expected to tender their resignations to the Emperor before the end of the coming week. So far as can be learned in London, Germany has modified her demands for a portion of the French Congo territory as "compensation" sufficiently

Injunction Against Nashville Banner

Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 5.—Praying that one hundred of the four hundred shares of stock in the Nashville Banner be transferred to it by decree; that payment of dividends upon the hundred shares to other than itself be enjoined, and that the Banner be restrained from increasing its capital stock, the fourth national bank of this city has entered an injunction suit against the Nashville Banner Publishing Company, its officers, E. B. Stahlman, individually, and against Frank C. Stahlman, the latter's son. The bill states that the stock was put up as collateral on a note for \$24,400, due July 9, 1911, which was not paid. The bank also alleges a claim from a contract entered into with it by Stahlman for the purchase by him of \$45,000 preferred stock in the company owning the Stahlman building here, installments on which dividends are alleged to be unpaid. Major Stahlman said today that the note due July 9 had not been paid because negotiations were in progress for the settlement of all disputed matters between himself and the bank, including a twenty-odd thousand dollar claim of his against the bank for extra fixtures placed for the bank in the Stahlman building, its home.

"The action," he said, "is simply an attempt to compel me to pay a debt I do not owe. I tendered the bank, on Monday, lawful money in the sum of \$4,336.64, covering every obligation I owe, including the Banner's, even before the latter was due, and also every dollar for which I was in any way responsible as endorser.

Boy Tied To Track And Killed

Austin, Tex., Aug. 4.—There were no additional developments today in the case of the unknown Mexican boy who was tied to the Houston and Texas Central tracks near Elgin, last night, and killed by a gravel train running over him. It is surmised by the officers that the act was committed by small boys who intended to scare the boy and then release him, but the unexpected arrival of a gravel train frightened them away and he was left to his fate.

BLACK HANDER TIES A GIRL

Washington, Pa., Aug. 5.—Following the receipt of a Black Hand letter by Miss S. D. Heckman, demanding \$1,000 and threatening to steal her daughter, Beatrice, aged 18, if she refused, the girl was attacked in her room here yesterday.

TWENTY-SEVEN REBELS KILLED IN BIG FIGHT

Mexico City, Aug. 5.—Twenty-seven rebels were killed and a number wounded in an engagement between rebels and federal troops late last night near Yerba Buena. The rebel leaders, Camacho, Pimiota and Hernandez, were captured. The rebels now hold for small towns and are threatening to attack Guadalupe, capital of the state of Jalisco.

BOY TRIES AN OLD REVOLVER.

Scranpton, Pa., Aug. 5.—Finding a rusty old revolver in an ash pile, Johnnie Dray, aged 11 years, of West Market street, boy-like, started to investigate his find, when the blamed thing went off. The bullet ploughed through his right hand, taking two of his fingers, and sped on over a fence into the next yard, where it found lodgment in the left side of Mark Moran, aged 6 years. The latter's condition is serious.

Des Moines Iowa Situation so Grave That Judge Issues Mandatory Injunction Ordering Co. and Men to Arbitrate Strike Immediately.

Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 5.—Following two nights and a day filled with the wildest disorder and rioting, Judge Lawrence DeGraff in the district court late tonight issued a mandatory injunction ordering the City Railway Company and the striking carmen to resume service at the earliest possible time. The order includes the temporary reinstatement, pending arbitration, of Conductor Hyatt, who was discharged for alleged pocketing of fares, the cause of the strike. The climax of the rioting followed the court order when a crowd of strike sympathizers bombarded the office building of the City Railway Company, in which is located the office of General Manager Harrigan. Every window in Harrigan's office was shattered and the building badly damaged.



GID AP! GID AP!

Rioting Marks The First Day Of Strike Begun In Brooklyn

Almost a Score of People were Injured, And Three Lines Were Completely Tied Up by Nightfall—Police Cannot Handle Mobs.

Des Moines Iowa Situation so Grave That Judge Issues Mandatory Injunction Ordering Co. and Men to Arbitrate Strike Immediately.

New York, Aug. 5.—Rioting marked the first day of the street car strike which began in Brooklyn today. Almost a score of persons were injured, several seriously and three lines were completely tied up by nightfall.

Coney Island traffic was hard hit by the enforced suspension of the service on the Smith street, the Franklin avenue and the De Kalb avenue lines. The routes affected are the chief trolley arteries to that resort.

Although 1,200 police reserves were rushed to the sections in which there was rioting or disorder threatened, they were unable to cope with the situation.

The crowds laughed at their threats and dared them to use the clubs, knowing that the officers did not dare do so.

Men and boys, carrying bricks and even large paving blocks, walked in among the sight seekers who were able to crowd the sidewalks at will, and the result was that, when a shower of Misses were hurled at cars the police were unable to get close enough to the guilty parties to catch them.

Strike breaker Fred Lawrence who took a car out for a trial trip was subjected to a hail of stones from a time he left the barns until he returned. In turning a corner he struck a delivery wagon, slicing two wheels off and sending the wagon spinning into the mob that lined the sidewalk. The crowd increased in size rapidly and Lawrence to escape harm, turned the current on in full and then seizing his controller ran inside the car and hid under a seat. After the car had run wild several blocks narrowly missing numerous collisions, the current was shut off and the car taken into the barns. This was the only car run on that line during the day.

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NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECT OF ADJOURNMENT

Washington, Aug. 5.—There is no immediate prospect of an adjournment of congress. The finance committee of the senate further complicated the situation today by agreeing to give hearings on the cotton bill which passed the house Thursday. True, these hearings which were granted at the request of Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, in behalf of his constituents, must be brief because the committee is under orders to report the bill to the senate not later than next Thursday. But the hearings do not make an adjournment next Saturday. The tentative date now fixed is the middle of week after next, say August 15 or 16.

La Follette and Underwood already in charge as a sub-committee of the wool bill, were today given similar charge of the free list bill. They have instructions to work out a compromise and report to the full conference committee.

Agreement between them on wool is near at hand. The basis of agreement is on the split-the-difference plan. The house is ready to follow Underwood and approve a 27 1-2 per cent duty on raw wool. LaFollette has been busy today seeing the 13 insurgent senators whose votes are necessary to approve the compromise. It is believed that the compromise agreement will be reported back to the full conference on Monday.

Meanwhile, the same two men will also be busy seeking to arrange a similar compromise on the free list bill. It is an unparalleled instance in the legislative history of the United States for two men—neither of them sympathetic with the party that controls the national administration—to be entrusted with the task of beating into final shape bills affecting in this amounting up to the hundreds of millions—that shall go to the president for his approval.

Republicans today are pointing out that the fact in itself will give the president excellent reason, if he is casting about for any, for vetoing the bills. The danger of passing the expected vetoes over the president's head in the senate is said to be passed now. Senator Murray Crane of Massachusetts, reported to the president today that the senate leaders have the situation well in hand and if the tariff bills are vetoed that will end the matter so far as the special session is concerned. Even in the house it is said that insurgent republicans are bucking against going so far as voting to override a presidential veto.

The staidhood bill will come to a vote on Monday. Between then and Thursday there will be ample time to dispose of the conference reports on wool and the free list, campaign publicity and every statehood if a conference on that is found necessary, and some debate on cotton may also be sandwiched in. It is the expectation now that a vote can be had on Saturday next on this bill and then, unless some effort is made to pass a steady statehood bill, the figure that a date may then be fixed for adjournment. This date will depend largely upon the time when the tariff bills are sent to the president and his action thereon.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE IN BEATTIE CASE

Richmond, Va., Aug. 5.—Detective Scherr and his assistants this afternoon discovered three witnesses, it is said, who will testify that there was a quantity of dust and dirt in the hair of Mrs. Louise Owen Beattie when her lifeless body was taken to the home of her uncle, Thomas L. Owen, near Forest Hill, a few minutes after she was shot on Midlothian turnpike, July 18. This evidence, and the bruise on the right side of Mrs. Beattie's face, appears to bear out the theory that the woman tried to escape, but was dragged back, knocked senseless and then shot while helpless on the ground. The state will not disclose the names of the new witnesses. The go cart purchased for Beulah Binford's baby probably will be in evidence at the trial. It developed today that Detective Jarrell, of Chesapeake county, is the present owner of the go cart, having purchased it from Mrs. Trout, who adopted the baby.

THE WELATHER

Washington, Aug. 5.—Forecast for Sunday and Monday: North Carolina, and South Carolina, generally fair, except probably local showers Monday.

Admiral Togo Guest Of Honor at Banquet Given By President

Officers Think they Have Thieves

Charleston, S. C., Aug. 5.—Formally charged with vagrancy and carrying concealed weapons, Charles Johnson and Harry Tracy, both negroes, are held here on suspicion of being post-office thieves. When arrested today in the suburbs by rural policemen, they had in their possession about fifteen dollars' worth of stamps and five boxes of cigars which they were offering very cheap. They also had Savannah pawn tickets in their pockets. The prisoners do not explain about the stamps and United States post-office inspectors have been notified.

Most Brilliant State Dinner Given by Mr. Taft This Year Has for Honor Guest Japan's Greatest Sea Fighter And Hero.

Many Notables Present And Whole Affair Marked By Charming Lack of Informality—General Arbitration Treat Talked Of.

Washington, Aug. 5.—Japan's great sea fighter, Admiral Togo, was guest of honor tonight at the most brilliant state dinner given by President Taft this year. Among the other guests in this magnificent assemblage were officers of the cabinet, members of congress who serve on committees of foreign affairs, army and naval officers and many civil functionaries.

In spite of the fact that the dinner was distinctly a state function, it was marked by a charming lack of formality that appeared to delight the little warrior from the east. Most of all was he pleased to receive eight hundred beautiful American women who were present at the reception that followed the dinner.

At the dinner President Taft expressed the hope with confidence that a general arbitration between Japan and the United States will soon be negotiated. Mr. Taft paid a tribute to the important part played by Japan in facilitating the movement for universal peace, by its prompt and unreserved resignation in the recent Anglo-Japanese agreement to the great moral principle of arbitration.

The admiral made no formal reply but expressed deep thanks. The president then proposed a toast to the emperor of Japan.

In an interview the admiral today, who speaks English very well, expressed the belief that the ingenuity of man would never be able to build an aeroplane that would destroy a battleship.

"I believe it would be a great cause for happiness if war could be abolished by arbitration," said the admiral. "Nevertheless, I feel," he declared impressively, "that the nations of the world will increase their natives. Increases will be necessary until the time when all cause of war shall have disappeared."

"Do you think," the admiral was asked, "that the future trend will be for the construction of large battleships than the best types we now have?"

"Some authorities think that the greatest efficiency can be had in a twenty thousand ton machine. Others say that to secure the greatest efficiency you must have a thirty thousand ton machine. In my opinion, however, we have nearly reached the limit of battleship construction, but, of course, I cannot say what the future may demand."

"I can see that the aeroplane will furnish very valuable service for and against the navy in actual warfare. But I should say that it will be most valuable to destroy a great battleship. The construction of a great battleship presented the most imposing scene I have ever witnessed. The regularity of the lines impressed me deeply and I could not but hold admiring the discipline observed in the moment's covering such a large area."

Admiral Togo would not discuss the Panama canal in any other way than as a highway of commerce. "It will be a great and magnificent monument to the enterprise of your country," he declared, "and it will be the greatest possible promoter of trade among the nations of the world. In that way the commercial tie will secure the ties of amity and good will among the people of the earth."

"It was very much impressed with the kindness of your president and I was impressed particularly with the splendid progress he is making towards securing the peace of the world by his general arbitration treaties. As to your nation itself and this city I am delighted with the impressions made so far."

THE HAYTIAN SITUATION IS VERY GRAVE

Cape Haitien, Hayti, Aug. 5.—A French steamer arriving at Puerto Platta today did not accept the offer of indemnity of Leader Firmin to carry him direct to Port au Prince. Troops from the south are at the gates of Port au Prince crying "Vive Le Firmin." Certain German houses in Port au Prince today called Gen. Leconte offering to assist his cause with money. Gen. Leconte is expected to enter the capital tomorrow (Sunday).

PRESIDENT AFTER HEARTS OF FARMERS

Washington, Aug. 5.—President Taft is going directly into the heart of the farm districts of the middle and northwestern sections of the country, where the anti-reciprocity sentiment was declared to be intense, and face the farmers themselves. He will likewise visit Iowa and Wisconsin, where he will take issue with Cummins and LaFollette.

This much in relation to the plans for the president's fall trip was disclosed at the White House today: If time will permit the president will go all the way to the coast, including the state of Oregon, and Idaho and Montana, whose senators, or most of them, made a vicious fight against the reciprocity pact. But in any event Mr. Taft will go into Wisconsin, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas.

It was the earnest hope of the president that Canada would ratify the pact speedily in order that its advantage would be speedily realized. But the president, following his custom, proposes to "face the music" any how and will go direct to the farm, and talk things over personally with the agriculturists and outlining the issues on which the battle of 1912 will be fought.

As now arranged the president will leave Beverly Sept. 16 and he will return on October 16 if he finally adopts the month's tour.

From Beverly the president will go to Knoxville, Tenn., to open the Appalachian exposition and lay the cornerstone of the Lincoln Memorial University medical school. From there he will extend his trip to Chattanooga, Nashville and perhaps to Memphis.

Leaving Tennessee the president will double back to Syracuse, N. Y., where he will arrive on September 23. The president will make a special trip from Beverly to attend the G. A. R. reunion in Rochester, N. Y., on August 23.

Unless Help is Given at Once Sixteen Thousand Albanian Refugees May Starve to Death

By CHARLES HENRY MELTZER, Special Commissioner to the Balkans. Podgoritz, Montenegro, Aug. 5.—The situation here is pitiful. Sixteen thousand dirty hungry Albanian refugees are wandering through the streets, squatting in the fields, and heaving with a few pigs left to them in holes and caverns by the banks of the Ribniza.

The Montenegrins do not feed the insurgents, and they are able to allow their families is one kilo of maize daily. The Albanian relief committee is deep in debt, and, owing to the false report that an American millionaire, Mr. Crane, had given half a million crowns to assist the Albanians cause subscriptions from American and English sympathizers have almost ceased. Mr. Crane gave the Albanians 12,000 crowns, or \$2,500. The Montenegrin crops have failed, and, even if peace were now declared, the Malissori have no harvest to look forward to this year. Unless prompt help comes more than 100,000 Highlanders will have no means of existence. I have seen the Malissori cave dwellers, and the stories told about their awful misery are not exaggerated. They are fever stricken, clad in rags and famishing. The need of help is urgent. The heat here is appalling, and only a few hours away, at Ppek, the Turks are stricken with cholera.