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## LAST DAY OF THE GRAFT HUNT

### Insurance Committee Ends Its Sessions

## REPORT TO LEGISLATURE

Has Brought Forth More Startling Disclosures Than Any Proceeding Laid Along Similar Lines—Equitable's Actuary, Joel G. Van Cise, Was the First Witness Today.

(By the Associated Press.)  
New York, Dec. 29.—After pursuing a line of inquiry into the methods of life insurance companies in this State which has covered a period of nearly four months the legislative insurance investigating committee will end its sessions to-day.

The vast accumulation of testimony, which contains revelations that have astounded the public, will at once be prepared in the form of a report to the Legislature.

The inquiry has brought forth more startling disclosures than any previous proceedings laid along similar lines. Like a match applied to a hay stack, the trouble arising in the affairs of the Equitable Life Assurance Society in the early part of the year started a conflagration of insurance exposures which to the public mind appeared interminable.

Evidence which described the juggling of vast sums of money invested by policyholders, methods of "graft" for personal advantage, schemes for financial gain and plans of bewildering intricacy for private profits, have been produced and will be the subject of the most earnest consideration of the Legislature.

Joel G. Van Cise, actuary of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, was the first witness today. He has been with the society for 35 years, and answering Mr. Hughes said that he was responsible for the actuarial methods of the society. He was asked if any of the management interfered with him, and replied:

"Henry B. Hyde attempted to make me make figures on dividends declared on deferred dividend policies higher than I thought advisable. That was about 15 years ago. I reported it to Vice President James W. Alexander and explained the dangers of this plan, and he persuaded Mr. Hyde to give way."

To Succeed J. A. Topping.  
New York, Dec. 29.—It was announced to-day that Charles Bray, first vice-president of the American sheet and Tin Plate Company, has been appointed president of that company in the place of John A. Topping, who has resigned to become the active head of the Tennessee Coal and Iron and Republic Iron and Steel properties.

Mr. Bray will assume his new position January 1. Eugene Pargny, the second vice-president, has been appointed first vice-president, and Archibald Davis, now in charge of the operating department, has been appointed second vice-president.

## THOUSAND DEAD IN MOSCOW RIOT

(By the Associated Press.)  
St. Petersburg, Dec. 30.—7:30 P. M.—Governor General Doubovoff has telegraphed to the government from Moscow that a large meeting of revolutionists and strikers at the Prokhoroff cotton mill outside the city was surrounded by troops of all arms today. The artillery opened a terrific bombardment and made a large rent in the walls which suddenly crumbled and the building came down in a heap. Hundreds if not a thousand persons were buried in the ruins.

Doubovoff regarded the Prokhoroff mills as the stronghold of the revolutionists and he reports that Moscow will be entirely cleared of them in three days.

General Davis Sails.  
(By the Associated Press.)  
New York, Dec. 30.—Gen. George W. Davis, of the Panama Canal Commission, sailed for Europe to-day on the steamer New York.

## MORE ABOUT MOROCCO

### Germany Will Issue Book to Offset French

Will Contain Documents Quoted from French Yellow Book and Correspondence Repelling Accusations of Bad Faith Against German Representatives.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Berlin, Dec. 29.—The foreign office will issue next week a book on the Morocco controversy containing documents quoted by the French government from its yellow book and correspondence repelling the accusations of bad faith made against Count Von Tattenbach-Ashold, the former special German representative at Fez.

The whole case from the German standpoint will be placed before the public. Such a book in a European diplomatic question has never been issued by the imperial foreign office, which unlike other foreign offices, which follow the Bismarckian rule never to publish such papers, but to hold foreign disputes in absolute secrecy.

France's yellow book, however, produced an effect on the world's political opinion that the German government is not willing to let go unanswered and the decision was taken to disregard the former policy and publish documents in rebuttal of France's presentation, which is regarded as that of a partial attorney determined to arrange the facts so as to produce a conclusion held in view from the beginning. The German government resents especially the statements designed to produce the impression that Count Von Tattenbach-Ashold had been untruthful.

The book is expected to clear away some impressions abroad that Germany threatened France.

## BURNED TO DEATH; BLOWN OUT WINDOW

(By the Associated Press.)  
New London, Conn., Dec. 30.—Emma Durand, a cook, was burned to death in a fire early to-day which gutted a wooden building at No. 97 Bank street.

May Pierson, a roomer in the house, was thrown from a window on the second floor by an explosion of gasoline in the rear of the building and seriously injured, but will recover.

The property loss is estimated at \$15,000, which is covered by insurance.

## BIG FIRE IN CHARITON, IOWA.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Chariton, Ia., Dec. 30.—Fire which started in Swift's restaurant this morning spread to a number of business establishments, destroying them and causing a loss estimated at \$100,000, partly covered by insurance.

## ROOSEVELT SENDS FITZ SYMPATHY

(By the Associated Press.)  
Chicago, Dec. 30.—A dispatch to the Tribune from San Francisco says: Robert Fitzsimmons has received a kindly, sympathetic letter from President Roosevelt, which he treasures above all his worldly possessions. The President wrote "Fitz" when he learned of the latter's defeat at the hands of Jack O'Brien. Fitzsimmons telegraphed an appreciative answer to the President. He thanked him for his letter and wished him the compliments of the season.

## HE HAS WALKED ACROSS CONTINENT

(By the Associated Press.)  
Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 30.—Van A. Wilcox arrived here yesterday on the home stretch of his tramp from the Atlantic to the Pacific, having walked just 165 days since leaving New York. He will finish his transcontinental walk at Santa Monica to-day.

In the course of his tramp across the continent Wilcox has walked 8,667 miles, or an average of a little more than 22 miles a day.

## MORMONS' PROPHECY

### Say Their Religion Will Encircle World

Joseph F. Smith and Other Mormon Leaders Address Four Hundred People in Chicago on Way Home from Vermont—Do Not Enter People Against Their Will.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Chicago, Dec. 29.—The prophet that Mormonism some day is to encircle the world as the ruling religion of the universe was made last night by Joseph F. Smith and other Mormon leaders, who spoke to an audience of 400 persons at the Latter Day temple church.

The special services were held for the purpose of giving Chicago Mormons the opportunity of hearing Mr. Smith and his co-workers during their brief stay here on their way back to Salt Lake City from Vermont, where they attended the dedication of a monument to the memory of the first Mormon prophet, Joseph Smith, uncle of the present leader of the faith.

"All edicts of our church are forbidden to stoke people to our belief against their will," said Mr. Smith. "We do not seek to coax women away from their families. I want you to know that the church does not tolerate such wrong-doing."

"To you young men here to-night I would have this message: I want you to live above suspicion. It is essential that you live pure lives; that you keep your word sacred, and that you be honest in your business dealings. Don't tear down other people's beliefs, but show them yours, and if yours is better they will choose it. This is our idea of religion."

All the speakers praised Joseph Smith as the true prophet of God. The party left after the meeting for Salt Lake City.

## TAKE UP CASE OF SENATOR SMOOT

(By the Associated Press.)  
Washington, Dec. 30.—Senator Burrows, chairman of the committee on privileges and elections, contemplates calling a meeting of the committee for next Saturday to consider matters which have arisen in connection with the investigation of the protest against Senator Reed Smoot, of Utah.

Action will be determined by the presence of a quorum of the committee. If it appears that there are in the city nearly all the members of the committee, a meeting will be held; if not the meeting will go over until next week.

When the committee held its last session to consider the case it was understood that all of the evidence was in, although further evidence was not bagged if the committee desired to have other witnesses.

The arguments of counsel have been made, but Senator Burrows has been informed by former Secretary of the Treasury John G. Carlisle, who is one of the attorneys for the protestants, that he would like to make an argument in the case. It will be for the committee to determine whether Mr. Carlisle will be heard.

## BUFFALO FLYER RAN INTO LANDSLIDE

(By the Associated Press.)  
Williamsport, Pa., Dec. 30.—The Buffalo Flyer, westbound on the Philadelphia & Erie Railroad, was wrecked today by running into a landslide eight miles west of Lockhaven, Pa. None of the passengers was hurt, but John Eberhart, fireman, and Engineer James Bird were injured by the overturning of the locomotive. The baggage and express cars were thrown down an embankment and almost lost into the Susquehanna River.

## WOUNDED ACTOR HAS PASSED AWAY

(By the Associated Press.)  
Chicago, Dec. 30.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Danville, Ill., says: Charles H. Smith, of the "Two Johns" Company, who was shot on Wednesday by C. F. Cooper, a New York theatrical manager, because of his attention to Cooper's wife, also a member of the "Two Johns" Company, died yesterday at the hospital. After the coroner's inquest Cooper was held without bond.

## LAW'S LETTER IS VERY PLAIN

### Cadet Shall be Dismissed on Court's Decision

His Father, S. Y. Dink, Arrived from New York This Afternoon—Physician Says Not Yet Decided if It Will Be Necessary to Amputate Hand.

## NO REAPPOINTMENT

Court's Finding, When Approved by Superintendent, Shall Be Final—This is the Law of 1874, and Moody Says It is Not Contradicted by the Law of 1893.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Washington, Dec. 29.—Although the papers in the case of Midshipman Trevor, Coffin, Jr., whose trial by court-martial on the charge of having been forwarded to the Navy Department for execution, approved by the superintendent of the sentence in a court is by law final.

The law of June 23, 1874, provides that "no court, military or civil, shall have jurisdiction of any case in which the sentence of a court-martial shall have been approved by the superintendent, and such sentence, when approved by the superintendent, shall be final and the cadet dismissed from the service shall forever be ineligible to appointment in said naval academy."

In a letter to the Secretary of the Navy in March, 1893, the Attorney General said: "I do not believe that the President can be held liable in that respect for the clear intent and plain meaning of a statute that the Congress intended to put an end to the disastrous custom of having at the naval academy and that Congress meant to put an end to a change of reinstatement or reappointment from a cadet who had been found guilty of the offense by a court-martial. Such a court should be approved by the department."

Attorney General Moody has ruled that the law of March 2, 1893, does not contradict the law of 1874. Prompt action will be taken by the Navy Department as soon as the papers are received.

Annapolis, Md., Dec. 30.—The court martial which has been engaged in trying the cases of Midshipman Trevor, Coffin, Jr., and Stephen Deatur, Jr., charged with having, did not have a session this morning, counsel for the latter having been given until this afternoon to prepare the case for defense.

The developments of the last twenty-four hours, connecting so many members of the graduating class with sailing, as well as the persistence of the whole implication of other midshipmen by the facts adduced by the board of inquiry, which have been in session for the last three weeks here, have raised the whole body of midshipmen to a pitch of great excitement.

The midshipmen, particularly the first class men, are wondering who will be taken next. It is freely admitted that most of them are involved, though less is now being said publicly than at the beginning of the crusade.

## STEAMER CELTIC IN A FURIOUS GALE.

(By the Associated Press.)  
New York, Dec. 30.—The White Star steamer Celtic, which arrived today from Liverpool, encountered a terrific hurricane on Christmas day. Enormous seas retarded the steamer's progress, the day's run from noon on the 25th to noon on the 26th being only 188 knots. An enormous sea broke over the starboard quarter and ripped out a section of the heavy waist bulwarks. The uprights were snapped off and several other sections dented in. The portion swept away was held by rivets 1 1/2 inches thick, but these to the number of 50 were drawn apart. The sea swept through the engineer's gangway, flooding various compartments and smashed in windows, doors and dead lights.

## EX-SENATOR MUST GO TO PRISON NOW.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Detroit, Mich., Dec. 30.—Word was received from Lansing today that the State Supreme Court has denied the application for a new trial of ex-Senator John T. Hoffmann, of this city, convicted of malfeasance in office and illegal collection of fees.

Hoffmann was sentenced, in the recorder's court to four years in prison. After hearing of the Supreme Court's decision Prosecuting Attorney Hunt said that Coroner Otto T. Toepel, who has been twice tried on the same charge as that on which Hoffmann was convicted, and released through a disagreement of the jury at each trial, will be tried a third time.

## MAY NOT LOSE HAND PRIZES FOR ESSAYS

### Logier Duke is in Watts College Men to Write on Present Problems

His Father, S. Y. Dink, Arrived from New York This Afternoon—Physician Says Not Yet Decided if It Will Be Necessary to Amputate Hand.

## SHIPS COLLIDE; BOTH IN MUD.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Wilmington, Del., Dec. 30.—The steamship Pennsylvania, from New York for Philadelphia and thence to San Francisco and Seattle, was in collision with the schooner Prescott Palmer on Cherry Island flats in the Delaware river to-day.

At the time of the accident the Palmer was hard aground in the flats. The Pennsylvania in attempting to pass the schooner crashed into its stern to a distance of nearly 25 feet. The steamship was unable to both craft are now lying on the muddy bottom. It is feared that the schooner will fill with water when the tide rises. No one was injured in the accident.

Shortly after the collision the two vessels drifted ashore. They are still fast together. The agents of the schooner estimate the damage at \$10,000. It is feared the schooner will break in two when the vessels are separated. The Pennsylvania is apparently uninjured. The Prescott Palmer is a five-masted schooner and is owned by Wm. D. Palmer, of Boston, for which port she was bound.

Earthquake Shocks.  
(By the Associated Press.)  
Kingston, Island of St. Vincent, Dec. 29.—The Islands of Grenada and Trinidad experienced an earthquake December 28 at the same hour at which it was felt here.

Actors Society Prosecutes Hasty.

(By the Associated Press.)  
New York, Dec. 30.—The retainer of a special attorney and other necessary expenses incident to the prosecution of Geo. Hasty, of Gaffney, S. C., accused of the murder of Milan Bennett and about Davidson, actors, will be defrayed by the Actors' Society of America.

The Actors' Society alleges that Hasty, who is a hotel proprietor, on December 15, killed Bennett and Davidson because they resented an insult to two women members of a dramatic company stopping at Hasty's hotel. In deciding upon this action the society "adopted a resolution praying as a reason 'hereof that peculiar circumstances attended the tragedy' and that Hasty a resident and property owner of the town in which the shooting occurred."

## SAYS HER HUSBAND FIRED THE SHOT

(By the Associated Press.)  
Battle Creek, Mich., Dec. 30.—Mrs. S. A. Soules is in the hospital here, apparently dying from the effects of a bullet wound in the hip, and her husband is being detained while the authorities investigate the shooting.

Soules declares that while his wife was dressing in the kitchen he heard a shot and found her lying on the floor wounded with a revolver lying near her. It says she has been despondent for several days.

Mrs. Soules, however, while in the ambulance, said that her husband shot her. She is in a delicate condition, and owing to this is not expected to recover.

## EXPECT STRUGGLE AT MONTE CHRISTI

(By the Associated Press.)  
Cape Haytien, Hayti, Dec. 30.—The Dominican cruiser Independencia has departed for Monte Christi, on the northern coast of Santo Domingo, according to information received here, but it is not known whether she is acting in behalf of the fugitive President Morales or in the interests of Vice President Caceres, the temporary president of Santo Domingo.

General Rodriguez, the governor of Monte Christi, who is understood to be supporting Morales, has occupied San Lorenzo De Gureubin, about twenty-five miles southeast of Monte Christi, and is strengthening his position there while awaiting the arrival of Morales, when the future movements of the forces of General Rodriguez will be decided upon.

(Continued on page seven.)

## ARGUED STATE PROHIBITION

### Debate in Thomasville Was by Negative

Dr. Charles A. Julian and Archibald Johnson for Affirmative and Chas. F. Lambeth and A. F. Sams for Negative—Dr. W. G. Bradshaw, J. J. Farris and R. W. Cates the Judges.

## CONTEST WAS CLOSE

(Special to The Evening Times.)  
Thomasville, N. C., Dec. 29.—The chief event of the Christmas festival here was the public debate held in Lambeth Hall. The question discussed was, Resolved, that it would be expedient for North Carolina to pass a general prohibition law at the present time. Dr. Charles A. Julian and Archibald Johnson for affirmative and Chas. F. Lambeth and A. F. Sams for negative—Dr. W. G. Bradshaw, J. J. Farris and R. W. Cates the Judges.

The committee which has chosen the subject and will pass on the essays, consists of Prof. J. Lawrence Laughlin, University of Chicago, chairman; Prof. J. B. Clark, Columbia University; Prof. Henry C. Adams, University of Michigan; Horace White, New York City, and Carroll D. Wright, Clark College.

Four prizes amounting to \$250 will be given to the successful writers. The subjects announced by Prof. Laughlin are as follows:

1. To what extent and by what administrative body should the public attempt to control railway rates in interstate commerce?

2. A just and practicable method of taxing railway property.

3. Will the present policy of the labor unions in dealing with non-union men and the "closed shop" further the interests of the workmen?

4. Should ship subsidies be offered by the government of the United States?

5. An examination into the economic causes of large fortunes in this country.

6. The influence of credit on the level of prices.

7. The cattle industry in its relation to the ranchman, feeder, packer, railway and consumer.

8. Should the government seek to control or regulate the use of mines of iron, or other raw materials whose supply may become the subject of monopoly?

9. What provision can be made for workmen to avoid the economic insecurity said to accompany the modern wage system?

The essays are to be delivered to Prof. Laughlin before June 1. The competitors will be divided into two classes, Class A is exclusively for all persons who have received the bachelors degree from an American college in 1894 or thereafter. The prizes in this class will be \$1,000 and \$500.

Class B is for the undergraduates. The prizes will be \$500 and \$250. Any member of this class may compete in class A. The most valuable of the essays will probably be issued in some permanent form.

The suit brought by Thomas Donaldson against the North Carolina Industrial Association and its officers, President Taylor and Secretary Hamilton, was to-day compromised and the plaintiff, for the most part, wins. The election held last October for officers of the next colored State fair is to be declared void and another meeting, probably in March, will be called when the annual election of officers will take place. The other matter in dispute, namely, how much stock Thomas Donaldson should have been left to Ex-Judge W. A. Montgomery as arbiter, Donaldson says he has 100 shares and the secretary says he has 116. Donaldson is to present his receipts to Judge Montgomery and both sides will abide by the judge's decision. J. N. Holliver, Esq., represents the plaintiff, and E. A. Johnson the defendants.

Mr. Lambeth spoke warmly against the fallacy of trying to legislate morals into a people. Prohibition laws, like all other laws, cannot be enforced except as they are supported by a healthy public opinion. It is not expedient to try to enforce prohibition laws upon a town whose people do not endorse the system. A law, said Burke, which attempts to do more than it can always ends by doing less than it ought.

Next he urged that the present Watts and Ward laws are far better than a uniform prohibition law. Certainly prohibition could not be enforced in certain places. These places would bring the whole system into disrepute. Give our present laws a chance to prove their adequacy. Don't do anything just now which, if it failed, would set back our present temperance movement a quarter of a century. Spend time in educating public sentiment in those places where liquor is so prevalent, rather than in enacting a law which will there be only a dead letter.

Mr. Archibald Johnson was witty and interesting. He belived his opponent was a man without a cause, that his heart was not in his words, and that he could speak well—if on the other side of the question.

If prohibition is good for one inch of North Carolina, it is good for every inch. He was speaking for every inch of the State. Every boy in the State must be saved, not simply those in certain places. The boys in Salisbury must be kept safe, as well as those in Greensboro. If prohibition has not (Continued on Page Five.)