

I DO NOT SEEK PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION; MY AMBITION IS NOT POLITICAL, AVERS TAFT

If the Great Office Should Come to Me I Should Not Decline

AN ANSWER MADE TO LATE PUBLICATIONS

The Secretary Says He Wishes to Relieve the Burden Imposed by Those Publications on Some of His Friends Among Newspaper Correspondents of Putting Further Inquiries to Him in Regard to His Political Aspirations—He Adds His Ambition is Not Political.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 29.—Secretary Taft made the following statement today concerning his presidential aspirations: "For the purpose of relieving the burden imposed by recent publications upon some of my friends among the Washington newspaper correspondents of putting further inquiries to me, I wish to say that my ambition is not political; that I am not seeking the presidential nomination; that I do not expect to be the republican candidate, if for no other reason, because of what seems to me to be objections to my availability, which do not appear to lessen with the continued discharge of my official duty; but I am not foolish enough to say that in the improbable event that the opportunity to run for the great office of president were to come to me I should decline it, for this would not be true."

THE PRESIDENT BIRD SHOOTING.

(By the Associated Press.) Charlottesville, Va., Dec. 29.—President Roosevelt was up early this morning despite the big fog which hung over the hills. After breakfast William Wilmer came over from Plain Deal, accompanied by Dick McDanel, who had mounted for the president, Admiral Hkey, Theodore, Jr., and Kermit and before 9 o'clock the party set out in the direction of Round Top, where they were joined by Joseph Wilmer. The sun shone brightly with not a cloud to be seen. Most of the morning was spent in the broad fields around Carters Bridge, and a large number of birds was bagged. The ride was greatly enjoyed by the president. Mrs. Roosevelt, Miss Ethel and her friend, Miss Langdon, together with Archie and Quentin, also spent most of the morning out of doors.

TWO CARDINALS DEAD AT ROME.

(By the Associated Press.) Rome, Dec. 29.—Cardinal Cavagnis was found dead in bed this morning, having succumbed to paralysis of the heart. Cardinal Tripepi also was reported to have died of paralysis during the night, but after remaining unconscious for a short time he revived. According to the latest reports from the cardinal's bedside he was sinking fast. Cardinal Tripepi died later in the day.

TO INCREASE BANK'S CAPITAL.

(Special to The Evening Times.) Statesville, N. C., Dec. 29.—The First National Bank people are busy preparing for the reorganization of the bank, which takes place early in January. On the first of January the capital stock of the bank will be increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and on the 9th the annual election of officers will take place. Collector Geo. H. Brown, former cashier, who came home from Asheville for the holidays, assisted in the bank this week.

BOY ACCIDENTALLY KILLED BY BROTHER.

(By the Associated Press.) Norfolk, Va., Dec. 29.—Accidentally shot through the head by his older brother, William Jenkins, aged 11 years, son of John B. Jenkins, a leading attorney of Norfolk, died within an hour today. The bullet from a .32-caliber revolver struck the small boy in the left side of the head, two inches above the ear, and penetrated the brain.

DISPENSARY SMASHED ALL HOLIDAY RECORDS

The total receipts from the sale of liquor by the Raleigh dispensary on Saturday and Monday, the latter being the Christmas eve rush, amounted to \$7,800, and the days were not very long, at that. Naturally, there are some who refuse to say that this is a temperate town. The grog-shop has not been dull since, but seldom has there been so great a demand for the wild and fiery product retailed here and turned out of an institution which has the support of those people opposed to the open saloon. When the first dispensary jumped into existence it was supposed to be a temperance shop, that it would reduce the amount of liquor usually sold, and that all would get upon the water wagon. All of which, however, was not.

is not willing to take chances with the unknown brands. It is possible, therefore, to figure that at least seven thousand, eight hundred quarts were turned loose on the community. Not all of it, however, was bought by the citizens of Wake, hence it is plain that taxes in this county are partly paid by the citizens from the dry towns of Durham and others. "That is a lot of money," said a man today who figures some. "It would buy 156,000 coca colas, the same number of cigarettes, and it would support quite a number of missionaries. If we should spend that much on mileage books a man could travel 312,000 miles, and think how that would put Mr. Bryan here, there and yonder. Think how many starving Chinamen it would bring back to life and fitness; think how much meal it would buy, how many children it would educate. There is absolutely no limit to our speculation." By a further twist of the pencil it might be possible to show that the receipts for the two days were almost sufficient to buy a woman an Easter hat.

CHURCHES OPPOSE THIS DIVORCE LAW

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 29.—Vigorous objection will be interposed by the churches of Washington to the adoption by congress of the uniform divorce law agreed upon at the recent convention of the national congress of uniform divorce laws held in Philadelphia. The ministers of Washington, it is announced, propose to organize a movement to oppose the adoption of the law.

J. J. HILL DOES NOT INTEND TO RESIGN

(By the Associated Press.) St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 29.—J. J. Hill has no intention at present of retiring from the presidency of the Great Northern Railroad on July 1, as stated in dispatches sent out from Minneapolis to Chicago and New York papers last night. In a statement given out for publication today Mr. Hill denied that he intended to retire, that time, saying that however much he would like to be relieved of the responsibilities of his position he could not see his way clear to do so yet.

ROAD IN THE HANDS OF THE RECEIVERS

(By the Associated Press.) Mobile, Ala., Dec. 29.—On the application of Messrs. Monell, Morrison & McLeod, the Chicago & Gulf Railway was last night placed in the hands of Messrs. F. E. Dewey and J. L. Dantzier as receivers by order of the chancery court at New Albany, Miss. The road is part of the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City line, which was recently placed in the hands of a receiver.

SHOT AT HER HOME ON FARM IN NIGHT

(By the Associated Press.) Warren, Ore., Dec. 29.—Mrs. Sarah Ayres was mysteriously murdered on her farm near here last night. Ber. Holman, Mrs. Ayres' thirteen-year-old son, said he was preparing to go to bed in an upper room when he heard a shot and some one running out of the house. The authorities have concluded to hold the boy for further examination.

MURDERS WIFE BEFORE MOTHER

(By the Associated Press.) Mount Carmel, Pa., Dec. 29.—William Whittager, a well known resident of this place, last night murdered his wife by cutting her throat with a razor in the presence of his own mother and that of his victim. The two mothers and the wife were conferring in the home of the wife's parents when Whittager entered the parlor, and after addressing his wife drew the razor and cut her throat from ear to ear. Following the murder Whittager fled toward Centerville pursued by a crowd which threatened with violence. He later returned to Mount Carmel, where he was arrested.

STEAMER LOST IN WILD STORM

(By the Associated Press.) Cadiz, Spain, Dec. 29.—A terrific storm is prevailing in the Straits of Gibraltar. Many ships have sought shelter in various ports along the coast. The Belgian steamer Heidelberg, bound for Havana, has been lost. Several of her crew were drowned.

THE HAMILTON FAST IN THE MUD.

(By the Associated Press.) Norfolk, Va., Dec. 29.—The Old Dominion steamer Hamilton, while crossing Hampton Roads this morning from Newport News to Norfolk, grounded off Sewell's Point and is still in the mud. She is in no danger, however, and may be floated on the next high tide without great difficulty. The steamer grounded in a dense fog. She was scheduled to leave here tonight for New York.

FOR BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION

Glenn to Urge Appropriation of \$10,000

LETTERS BY HEYWARD

Governor Glenn the First to Respond to the Suggestion of South Carolina's Chief Executive Looking to Bringing a Desirable Class of Immigrants to the South.

In his letter to the general assembly Governor Glenn will urge that the sum of \$10,000 be appropriated for the establishment of a bureau of immigration, similar to that in South Carolina.

Governor Heyward, who was recently elected president of the Southern Immigration Association, has sent letters to all of the southern governors asking them to support the movement. According to a dispatch from Columbia Governor Glenn was the first to answer and he states that he will recommend action by the state.

The South Carolina bureau has attracted much attention of late by reason of Commissioner Watson's successful efforts in bringing a shipload of Europeans to Charleston. Dispatches from Bremen say that another cargo has been booked. Good work is offered those who come, and the experiment was so eminently successful that Commissioner Watson will doubtless send other agents to Europe to secure larger parties in the spring.

It is believed, of course, that the project will be opposed by certain factions in North Carolina, though it is believed that Governor Glenn will do everything in his power to have the money set aside for the purpose. After the bureau was established in South Carolina the politicians endeavored to kill it, but lately they have appreciated its value and it will hardly be disturbed hereafter.

SMITH FUNERAL DELAYED A DAY.

(By the Associated Press.) Norfolk, Va., Dec. 29.—The body of the late Bishop A. Coke Smith, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which was expected to reach here this morning from Asheville, N. C., where Bishop Smith died Thursday night, failed to arrive, and the funeral will be postponed until 2:30 p. m. tomorrow.

SOON TO ESTABLISH A NEW LINE OF STEAMERS.

(By the Associated Press.) City of Mexico, Dec. 29.—Within the next few days arrangements will be made for the establishment of a new line of steamers between Panama and Salina Cruz. Through the efforts of W. L. Vall a concession has just been granted by the government of Salvador for the operation of the line. It is said that this line may have the effect of losing the mail business to the Pacific Mail Line between northern ports.

THREE CHANGES ARE ANNOUNCED

In the Department of Public Education

CAPTAIN JOHN DUCKETT

Becomes Superintendent of State Colored Normal Schools, and Mr. Coon Assumes Duties of Statistical Clerk in Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Miss Duckett Resigns.

On the first of January several changes will take place in the office of the superintendent of public instruction, announcement of the fact having been made today by Superintendent J. Y. Joyner.

Capt. John Duckett, who for the past six years has been statistical and general clerk in the office of the superintendent of public instruction, will become superintendent of the State Colored Normal Schools, still retaining, however, his connection with the office and using such time as he can spare to aid in the general work of the office, with which he is so familiar. Captain Duckett's long and successful experience as a teacher, as a county superintendent and as a worker in the summer normal schools fits him admirably for this new and important work. He has been unanimously elected to this position by the State Board of Education, under whose general control these schools are.

Mr. Charles L. Coon, formerly superintendent of the State Normal Schools, becomes statistical and general clerk in the office of superintendent of public instruction. He has had much successful experience in this sort of work, having had charge for some years of the bureau of information of the Southern Education Board at Knoxville, Tenn., and having compiled numerous valuable educational statistics for this and other southern states for use in the educational campaign that has been carried on in the south for the past several years.

Miss Ella Duckett, who has been the faithful and most efficient stenographer for the superintendent of public instruction for the past six years, resigns to assume more important duties, and Miss Hattie Arrington will fill the vacancy caused by her resignation.

SIXTEEN DEAD, WRECK CLEARED

(By the Associated Press.) Dundee, Scotland, Dec. 29.—The wrecks of the two trains which were in collision near Arbroath between Edinburgh and Aberdeen yesterday resulting in the death of sixteen persons and serious injuries to over thirty have been cleared away sufficiently to permit of traffic being resumed. The dead and injured have all been taken to Arbroath. No further deaths have been reported among the injured.

SPANISH WARSHIPS ORDERED TO TANGIER.

(By the Associated Press.) Cadiz, Spain, Dec. 29.—The Spanish armored cruiser Emperor Carlos V and the battleship Pelayo have been ordered to sail for Tangier January 2.

ENGINE RUSHING DOWN STEEP GRADE PLUNGES TO LOUISBURG STREET

TO BE LAID TO REST MONDAY

Preparations for President's Cassatt's Funeral

WHO WILL SUCCEED HIM

Among Names of Men Mentioned as His Probable Successor Are James McRea, Captain John P. Green, Samuel Rea and Henry C. Frick, All Connected With Pennsylvania System.

(By the Associated Press.)

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 29.—Arrangements are being perfected today for the funeral of the late Alexander Johnston Cassatt, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which will take place Monday afternoon. Every building owned by the company and all of the locomotives are draped with mourning. The company's big office building in this city work is practically suspended and the mourning officials and employees gather in groups and discuss the life and character of their beloved chief.

It was decided to hold the funeral services at the city home of Mr. Cassatt at 2 p. m. Monday. A special train will convey the funeral party to Bryn Mawr, a suburb ten miles from the city where interment will be made in the burial grounds of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Redeemer.

All the directors and the higher officials of the company will attend in a body according to present arrangements. The directors will meet late today to make arrangements for the funeral on behalf of the company.

At a conference in the office of General Manager Atterbury it was decided not to follow the custom of stopping trains for a few minutes when the head of the company dies, and orders were issued that under no circumstances must traffic be halted on the day of the funeral.

A SATISFACTORY WAGE AGREEMENT.

(By the Associated Press.) Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 29.—The grievance committee of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers which has been in Pittsburgh for several weeks in conference with the officials of the Pennsylvania lines west, in regard to an adjustment of the wage scale, has reached a satisfactory agreement but the details of the settlement have not yet been completed. They have accepted the ten per cent increase that was granted by the Pennsylvania a short time ago and some radical changes. It is said, however, that the agreement has been made in the working conditions.

JAPANESE CORNERS THE POTATO MARKET.

(By the Associated Press.) Chicago, Dec. 29.—A dispatch to the Record-Herald from Los Angeles, Cal., says:

The people of all California are today paying tribute to a shrewd little Japanese, Kinya Shima, of Stockton. He has cornered the potato market. He will be the virtual dictator of prices until next season. He and the Japanese companies he controls stand to sell their crop for \$1,000,000, and Shima himself will clean up \$250,000. The market in six weeks has gone from \$1.37 1/2 per hundred pounds in car load lots to \$1.67 1/2.

KILL ROOSEVELT AND THE MIKADO, IT SAYS

(By the Associated Press.) San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 29.—Secret service agents here had their attention called this morning to an inflammatory paper published in Berkeley by Japanese, entitled "The Revolution," in which the assassination of the mikado, President Roosevelt and others in authority is advocated in plain language. Marked copies of the paper were sent through the mail to the board of education in this city.

One Man, a Negro Crushed to Death Under the Ponderous Mass.

COUPLING SNAPPED AND OTHER LIVES SAVED

The Brakes Failed to Work, the Engine Got Beyond Control on the Grade and Went Crashing Through the Block Obstruction at the Termination of the Line, Dragging the Tender and One Box Car With It to the Street Thirty Feet Below.

(By Southern Bell Telephone.)

Louisburg, Dec. 29.—Running down the steep grade into Louisburg this morning, the local accommodation train from Franklinton on the Seaboard Air Line branch, swept by the station at full speed, crashed through the block obstruction where the line terminates, and the engine, tender and one box car jumped a distance of thirty feet into the street below. Tom Macon, a negro, who was passing at the time, was crushed to death.

According to all accounts the air brakes had not been working for several days, and when the train started down the incline it got beyond control. Engineer F. B. Eyster saw that he could not check the speed, and just before the engine went down he and the fireman jumped. They escaped with slight bruises. The coupling holding the passenger coaches snapped, fortunately, and these cars did not fall below. No one seems to have witnessed the killing of Macon, the negro. When an examination was being made a man's foot was seen under the tender, and when the debris was removed the body was brought to view. Macon must have been killed instantly. Ordinarily, the block obstruction is sufficiently powerful to hold a runaway car and prevent its breaking through and hitting the street below, but the train this morning came with such tremendous force that it was smashed like an egg.

This afternoon the locomotive is still lying in the street.

LAST CALL. To Voters in the Greatest Contest ever held in the State. Vote before ten o'clock tonight or you can't vote at all.