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RAILROAD MEN CONFER TODAY

President of Southern and Traffic Officials of Subsidiary Companies Talk Over Situation, With View to Meeting Demands of Panic Times and Also to Adjust Labor Conditions.

(By Leased Wire to The Times)
Washington, July 27.—A conference of 20 of the chief traffic officers of the Southern railway and its allied subsidiary corporations will begin at the offices of the Southern, in this city, today, its purpose being a discussion of the business situation generally in the south. The gathering, which was called by W. W. Finley, president of the Southern, will be presided over by him and will include the presidents of the companies affiliated with the road.

Mapping Out Year's Business.
It is stated that as the fiscal year of the various roads and other corporations interested came to a close July 1, much attention will be given to mapping out plans for the new year along the line in taking care of freight and passenger business in the Southern's territory. The intention is to take action to conserve the interests of labor on the various roads, and, at the same time, attempt to improve the service of all lines.

Mobile & Ohio Expects Benefit.
"We expect the result of our deliberations to have considerable effect in the way of further building up railroad business along our lines," said E. L. Russell, vice-president of the Mobile & Ohio, who is here.

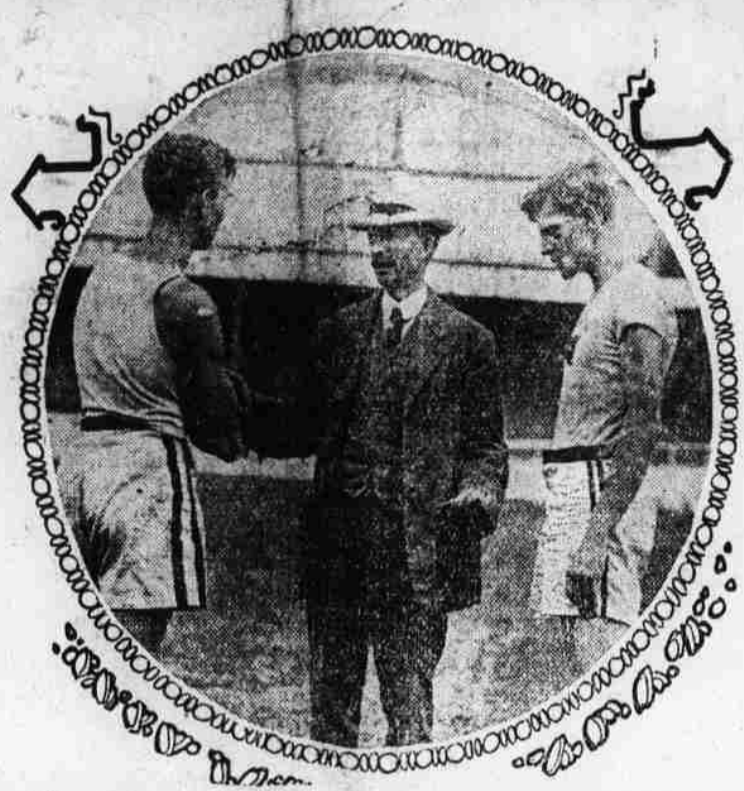
is bad. There is a revival of prosperity in the south since the first of July, this time a steady, sure, day-by-day increase of traffic. I have never been able to understand why we had what is called 'the panic' six months ago. Last year we had good wheat crops, good corn crops and good cotton crops. These products all sold at good prices. Yet business stopped in a day as it were.

Thought Bottom Had Been Reached.
"From the signs, as I saw them after that time, I thought the depression had touched bottom and that business was on the rebound, but every time business took a spurt I was doomed to disappointment, because traffic fell off again. And you know that railroad traffic is a sure sign of business conditions. This continued through February, March, April, May and some part of June."

"Now there is a change, sure, for the better. The south has in sight the best cotton crop it has had for 20 years, the best corn crop it has had for several years, and, I understand, there is an average wheat crop."

Encouragement in Cotton Belt.
"Since July 1 business on the Mobile & Ohio has averaged better every day than since 'the panic' struck us. This points to encouragement."

Mike Murphy Giving Instructions.



This Picture Is From a Snapshot taken on the Olympic field in London and Shows Trainer Mike Murphy, Instructing Hillman, on the Left and Bacon Just Before the 400-Metre Hurdle Race. Bacon Finished First in the Race and Hillman Was a Good Second.

Independents Open Convention Today

Hearst Men Gathering in Chicago to Draft Platform and Name Candidates for President and Vice-President—No Fusion, Say Leaders, With Democrats.

INDEPENDENCE PARTY PROGRAM FOR TODAY

(By Cable to The Times.)
10 a. m.—Meeting of the national committee at the Auditorium.

10 a. m.—Meeting of women's auxiliary committee on receptions and entertainments at the Auditorium.

12 noon.—Temporary Sergeant-at-Arms Frank Brust will meet with 100 assistants at Orchestra hall and arrange for first session.

1 p. m.—Caucuses of all states except Iowa begin, stretching through the afternoon.

2 p. m.—Indiana delegation received by W. R. Hearst at the Auditorium annex.

7:15 p. m.—Doors open at Orchestra hall for convention.

8 p. m.—Convention called to order; following business transacted: Secretary Walsh reads the convention call; temporary chairman, probably W. R. Hearst, introduced; temporary chairman makes "keynote" speech.

(By ERNEST ELI ROESER)

Chicago, July 27.—This evening at 8 o'clock the national convention of the Independence party—the new party—will be called to order by William Randolph Hearst, who fills the office of temporary chairman.

There is none of the noise, none of the tremendous crowds, none of the holiday spirit and the gay decorations in connection with the convention. The assemblage has the appearance of what the workers in the new party intended it to be—a working organization.

No Set Program Prepared.

The leaders of the new party say this convention is not to be like the others. There is no set program. Anything is likely to happen, and anyone of the men mentioned for the presidency is likely to be nominated. All depends on the will of the various delegations.

One thing may be regarded as assured by the common opinion of the delegates—there will be no fusion. The Independence party will stand by itself; it will call for and work for its own votes and, in short, will campaign with the same vigor that the other parties will. There is absolutely no chance of the vote being thrown to the candidates of either the democratic or republican parties, according to the men—30 are doing things here today.

No Delegate Is Weakening.
There is considerable speculation in Chicago as to what will really happen at the convention. There are

those who predict that an attempt will be made to strengthen the convention for the democrats. It is true that filibuster work has been in progress, but a canvass of the various delegations fails to find any evidence of weakening on the part of delegates.

Hearst Won't Take Nomination.

As to who will be the candidate for president, this is pretty much of an open question. One thing is assured—Mr. Hearst will not be the man. He declines, unequivocally, to run, and he will not accept if nominated. Thomas S. Higen, of Massachusetts, is accorded strong support. It is believed he will be nominated. There are other candidates, however, whose strength indicates to many that the question is an open one and the honor will fall to any one of four men mentioned.

Howard Very Strong Man.

Besides Mr. Higen, former Congressman Howard, of Alabama, is regarded as a remarkably strong man. It would not be surprising if he won out over the Massachusetts man. Col. Graves, of New York, is another strong candidate. The old Atlanta editor is well liked by the delegates and he will have a strong following. Taylor, of Illinois, and Neal, of Indiana, are in the field.

New York Editor to be Keynote.

(By Leased Wire to The Times.)
Chicago, July 27.—Chicago today has a whirlwind gathering of enthusiastic men from every state in the union to attend the first big convention of the new Independence party.

Early in the morning important developments started. Delegations arrived with unbounded enthusiasm. New York appeared with 125 men, cheering and bubbling over with enthusiasm. Ohio, Taft's state, reached the city 46 strong. California uncorked the real article of enthusiasm and boomed the first vice-presidential candidate—Gen. J. C. Haggeman, of Carson City, Nev.

The meeting of the national committee was held at 10 o'clock in the Auditorium. William Randolph Hearst, of New York, was selected temporary chairman. He was selected unanimously by the big committee and will sound the keynote of the first convention.

WIDOW IS SHOT BY MAN WHOM SHE DIDN'T WANT

(By Leased Wire to The Times.)
Granite City, Ill., July 27.—Mrs. Kocur, a widow of one of the wealthiest and most respected men of the foreign colony here, was shot twice and killed in her home by a man she had repudiated. Mrs. Kocur's 14-year-old son witnessed the shooting.

REGISTER CASE FOR LAURINBURG

Hearing Continued This Afternoon at Request of Attorney and Laurinburg Fixed as Place ---Day Wednesday August, 19---Telegrams of Protest to Governor Come Pouring In.

The hearing of the application for a pardon for H. B. Register was continued this afternoon at the request of counsel both for the state and defense, and Governor Glenn set Wednesday, August 19, as the day on which to hear the evidence. As the governor will be in Laurinburg on that day, the hearing will be held there and not in Raleigh.

The governor this afternoon read telegrams to the counsel, who assembled in his office, from leading citizens of Columbus county, praying him not to pardon Register. A minister of the county, in a letter, protests against the pardon.

Mr. D. J. Lewis represents the state and Messrs. Jackson Greer, of Whiteville, and C. M. Bernard, of this city, appear for the defendant, and Mr. Greer is a paid attorney.

Without the slightest doubt in his mind as to the guilt of H. B. Register, the old white man of Columbus county now serving a life sentence in the state prison for accessory before the fact of the murder of Jim Staley and Jesse Soles, Attorney D. J. Lewis of Whiteville appeared before Governor Glenn this afternoon in opposi-

tion to the pardon. The evidence against Register is conclusive, declared Mr. Lewis, and on that ground he opposed the pardon.

Register was convicted in Columbus county in 1904 of accessory before the fact of the murder of Jim Staley, a negro, and Jesse Soles, a white man, with whom Staley was living. The object of the murder was robbery, and the house was burned over the doomed men's heads.

Cross Edmondson, a white man, was sentenced to six years in the penitentiary for complicity, turned state's evidence. Edmondson has since died and the friends of Register claim that his statements were untrue. They claim further that developments have arisen to throw doubt on the guilt of Register.

Jabel Register, a son, after the supreme court had affirmed the judgment of the lower court, and after Gov. Aycock had declined to pardon him, was hanged February 24, 1904, for the murder. In sentencing him, Judge Lyon is said to have stated that the father was guiltier than the son and he wished he could punish the old man instead of the boy, who (Continued on Second Page.)

SEEK ABDUCTORS OF A YOUNG GIRL

Amelia Stechel, Thrown From Boat to Drown, Remembers Nothing—Found On Rope.

(By Leased Wire to The Times.)
New York, July 27.—The police of South Brooklyn and central office detectives today sought the two men who abducted 18-year-old Amelia Stechel, carried her off in a rowboat, and then threw her into the bay to drown. The girl was found unconscious, clinging to a rope at the side of a piledriver anchored about 100 feet off Fifteenth street.

In Water Nine Hours.
The girl, when she recovered consciousness, said she had been in the water nine hours. Her hands clutched the rope convulsively so that they could not be loosened, so the rope was cut off and rope and girl were taken to the Norwegian hospital, where her grip was finally released, but not until she had been restored to consciousness.

Gagged and Ill Treated.

According to the young woman, she was seized at a lonely spot in Bay Ridge by two men, gagged, carried out into the bay in a rowboat and there ill-treated and flung overboard. She swam for shore, but was exhausted by the time she reached the piledriver and had just enough strength left to grasp a rope, after which she became unconscious and remembered nothing more until she woke up in the hospital.

The precinct police said there were evidences that her story was true, and a number of detectives were put on the case at once. At 7 a. m. yesterday, according to Henry Houghton, a night watchman at the Bush Terminal company's docks, he saw the girl clinging to the rope and rowed out to her. He found her unconscious. Houghton notified the police and called an ambulance.

FINDS OLD SWEETHEART AT WESTERN FIVE CENT SHOW.

Bismarck, N. D., July 27.—Alfred Blasdel, secretary of state of North Dakota, renewed a boyhood love when he strolled into a five cent theatre at Minot, N. D., and met Miss Grace Emmons, the pianist, whom he had known as a girl in Minnesota. The meeting resulted in their marriage.

BROTHERS FIGHT OVER THEIR MULE

And Neal Lancaster Gets Fatal Bullet From John--- Shooter Surrenders.

(By Leased Wire to The Times.)
Atlanta, Ga., July 27.—Neal Lancaster, 28, was shot and instantly killed this morning by his brother John, 34, a steamfitter, as the culmination of a quarrel over a mule in which the two shared equally.

The tragedy occurred at the home of the brothers on the Magazine road, just beyond the city stockade. Neal has surrendered to the authorities.

LIGHTNING DRIVES WILD MAN DESPERATE

(By Leased Wire to The Times.)

McDonald, Pa., July 27.—Leppo, the wild man with the Metropolitan show, became crazed when lightning struck the big tent and, in his fury, attacked Joe Dudley, a negro, with his teeth and bit him so badly that he will die.

Leppo fastened his teeth in Dudley's neck and held on until his jaws were pried apart with an iron bar in the hands of another employee.

Once separated from his victim, Leppo ran wildly about the tent, in which several hundred persons had taken shelter from the storm. He hurt many people before being felled with a stake and chained.

C. P. TAFT WANTS TO BE A SENATOR FROM OHIO

(By Leased Wire to The Times.)
Cincinnati, O., July 27.—A new candidate for the United States senate from Ohio is Charles P. Taft, a brother of William Howard Taft. It is known thus far only to his personal friends, not even the politicians having been taken into his confidence. But the senatorship, it is said, is understood to be his reward if any one save Joe Foraker is to be returned by the next legislature.