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MEETING OF COMMITTEES

The Presidential Campaign Will Soon Be In Full Blast

WILL BE BIG FIGHT

Meeting of the Two National Committees Will Mark Formal Opening of Campaign...

(By Winfield Jones.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 11.—National political campaigns are inaugurated at the meetings of the two national committees...

This has been the practice for half a century and the coming campaigns will follow the usual course.

By the first of the year therefore the race will be on, and the fight will continue until the ballots are counted in the November election.

It is true that the two parties do more or less campaigning during the four years between elections.

The tremendous importance of the congressional election a year ago is an evidence of the desperation with which the parties will clash ten months from now.

Yet the far-sighted leaders of that party are none too confident of the result next November.

No political organization in the history of the country has been able to sustain such terrific assaults as has the republican party.

This is the reason why the democratic leaders are calculating upon all possible contingencies.

These leaders know that the republican party is never whipped until the last state is heard from, and while conditions now are in their favor they are guarding against over confidence.

PORTER CHARLTON CASE STILL DELAYED

Jersey City, Dec. 11.—Porter Charlton, after waiting in jail a year and a half, charged with murdering his wife at Lake Como, Italy in June 1910, is facing another eighteen months inaction in his case.

After a woman living in a small town has visited the city for a couple of weeks she calls her hired girl a maid.

meet in this city in a few weeks, elect a chairman, pick a city to hold the convention in, and set a date for its assembling.

These candidates, all of them, have friends on the national committee. They are looking to these friends to lose no tricks and are depending upon them to see that their opponents gain nothing while, either in regard to the place for holding, the convention, or in any other detail of the committee's action.

There no longer seems much doubt that President Taft will be renominated. The LaFollette supporters are in a hopeless minority in the republican committee and will be able to choke off the presidential primary movements.

Of course there is always the possibility that Colonel Roosevelt will come forward at the last minute and "save his party" by allowing himself to be nominated, but if his own declarations are to be taken seriously and the assurances of his friends are to be believed, he will not under any circumstances allow his name to be presented.

This leaves the republican convention with nothing to do but to nominate President Taft, and then to do what it can to frame a platform which will win back into the party the rank and file of the insurgent forces.

It was for this reason that the republican committee will devote so much of its time in talking over the platform, and the necessity of making it as "progressive" as such a platform could stand.

When the democrats meet, the situation will be different. There will be no less than five candidates and their individual strength might be

FOUND DEAD IN ROOM

Mysterious Case of Asphyxiation In Philadelphia

Girl Found Dead and Her Maid Senseless on the Floor—Strange Feature is that Supposed Maid Was Her Mother.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 11.—The police are investigating the mysterious death of Mary F. Harmon, age eighteen, found in the bedroom of her apartment, supposedly dead from gas asphyxiation.

The strange feature of the case is that while the girl was supposedly white, and the maid a mulatto, the girl really had negro blood and was the daughter of the woman who lived with her as her servant.

The mother is unconscious in a hospital. If she recovers she may throw light on the mysterious case. Among the girl's effects were fifteen pawn tickets showing \$228 had been borrowed on jewelry. Five bank books were examined. These showed that in one Baltimore bank in 1907, the girl had eighteen hundred dollars on deposit.

LOST A RICH GOLD MINE

Paltry Federal Job Kept Claimant From Getting Title.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Whether J. Potter Whitren lost his claim to a rich gold mine in Alaska because he held a paltry federal job now is before the supreme court of the United States. Whitren first discovered gold in Alaska in 1902. He marked off his claim, but included half an acre too much within its bounds.

Otto Halla and others now claim title to the mine in question, on the ground that Whitren lost his claim in 1902 and was disqualified from gaining another after he became a deputy mineral surveyor.

FIREWORKS IN PLACE BURST

Fire Destroys Piedmont News Stand and Sets Off Many Crackers

Fire shortly before seven o'clock today in the Piedmont News Stand in the building on the corner of Martin and Dawson streets, set off a lot of fire-crackers, roman candles and other fireworks, caused a slight explosion of gas, practically ruined that part of the wooden building and knocked from a chair the owner of the place, Mr. M. Fromme.

Mr. Fromme said he entered his place at 6:50 to open shop. He went to the gas jet about midway in the building, climbed upon a chair and struck a match. When he did so there was an explosion, he was knocked several feet and barely reached the front door before the entire room was in a blaze.

An alarm was sounded and the fire department responded promptly. The other part of the building was not damaged, but Mr. Fromme's place was practically demolished by fire, water and smoke.

BUYING FOREST LANDS

National Forest Reserve Commission Buys 18,500 Acres in McDowell.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Following a meeting of the National Forest Reserve Commission in this city today, the announcement was made that the commission had ratified the purchase of 10 tracts of land in McDowell county, N. C., aggregating 18,500 acres.

This land lies at the headwaters of the Catawba River a stream which flows into the Santee River. The Santee is navigable for 200 miles and is one of great commercial importance.

JUROR IN SWOPE CASE DISAPPEARS

Kansas City, Dec. 11.—Harry Waldron, a juror in the trial of Dr. B. Clark Hyde, for murdering Col. Thomas H. Swope, has disappeared. The trial has been held up. The deputy marshal, guarding the juror in the hotel found a ransom form from Waldron's door this morning.

THE INVESTIGATION AT LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.—With the McNamara brothers in the state penitentiary the case divided itself into two parts today, one being the preliminary examination of Burt H. Franklin, charged with bribing a prospective juror, and the other the conference between Oscar Lawler, special prosecutor, and several witnesses summoned to appear tomorrow before federal grand jury to tell what they know about alleged dynamiting conspiracies.



From top to bottom are some of the beef packers who are now on trial in Chicago before the federal court to answer a criminal charge of a violation of the Sherman anti-trust law: J. Ogden Armour, president of Armour & Co.; Charles H. Swift, director Swift & Co.; and Louis F. Swift, president of Swift & Co.

DEATHS OF INFANTS

Raleigh Shows Up a Little Better In These Statistics

Rate of Infant Mortality in Raleigh Compares Favorably With That of Other Cities in the State—Rate 18 Under One Year and 23 Under Five Years.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Rates of infant mortality in Raleigh and North Carolina, compared with other cities and states are shown in a preliminary statement from the census bureau today.

SON BEATS HEAD OF FATHER INTO PULP

Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 11.—Chas. F. Dowdy, a white carpenter, was arrested here today and is now in jail charged with the murder of his father, Mr. W. G. Dowdy.

WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE TOBACCO CASE

Washington, Dec. 11.—The United States supreme court declined to interfere at this time with the decree of the United States circuit court for southern New York approving the reorganization plan of the "tobacco trust."

NO HOPE FOR MEN IN MINE

Sixteen Bodies Have Been Recovered and There Are One Hundred More

Briceville, Penn., Dec. 11.—With sixteen bodies recovered and identified, rescue parties renewed digging in the attempt to force the Big Cross mountain mine to surrender its dead.

One hundred or more are believed dead in the mine. All hope of rescuing any who went into the mine Saturday has been abandoned.

In a warehouse near the mine entrance, are great numbers of coffins awaiting their occupants. Of the corpses found last night three sat bolt upright in a mine car.

The first body discovered this morning was Andrew Johnson, was found in a sitting position in one of the interior chambers. Red Cross camp has begun work for the relief of the suffering.

INDICATIONS OF STORM

Believed That West Indian Hurricane is on Its Way. Washington, D. C., Dec. 11.—Indications of a severe storm which may strike the south Atlantic states, was reported to the weather bureau from Turks Island, seven hundred miles from Miami, Florida.

AMERICAN CATHOLICS LEAVE

Rome, Dec. 11.—Suites of the American cardinals have begun to disperse. Seven of these attached to Cardinal Farley left for Cherbourg. They sail for America on the Pricess-Cedric, January fifteenth.

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committed the crime. Circumstances developed today caused Magistrate George Harrison to issue a warrant against the son of the deceased.

BIG DOINGS IN BASEBALL

National Commission and Eastern League Meeting.

New York, Dec. 11.—Three days big doings in baseball circles opened today with the meetings of the National Commission and Eastern League. New ranking of American Association and Eastern and Pacific Coast leagues in the "A" class before the commission for ratification.

GOVERNORS IN NEW YORK

Western Governors Welcomed to the City By Mayor Gaynor.

New York, Dec. 11.—The western governors party was formally welcomed by Mayor Gaynor in the city college ball.

DIED AT A FIRE

New York, Dec. 11.—After preventing panic by going among and reassuring the frightened tenants of a burning apartment house, Samuel Best, 78 years old, an ex-battalion chief of New York Fire Department, died from heart failure last night while watching the firemen battle with a stubborn blaze.

MISS DEWITT ON TRIAL

Accused of Writing Defamatory Letters

Case of Easton Girl Who is Charged With Mailing Defamatory Letters—Was Continued for About Ten Years.

Philadelphia, Dec. 11.—Miss Harriet Dewitt, of Easton Penn., accused of writing the "poisoned pen" that caused the trouble in Easton Church circles was placed on trial in the United States district court today.

The letters which she is accused of sending to various persons were defamatory and penned during a period of about ten years.

Their particular mark was Rev. Elmer E. Snyder, pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Easton. All the letters were printed, some covering eight to ten pages. During the ten years defamatory letters were received by married men, their wives, young brides, and innocent girls.

Rev. Mr. Snyder was the first witness. He was 29 and single when he took charge of the church in 1901. Miss Dewitt lived opposite the parsonage.

"What were Miss Dewitt's actions towards you the last year or so?" he was asked. "If I passed her on the street she would throw her head up and sometimes make faces."

BILLS FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Washington, Dec. 11.—Bills providing appropriations for three public buildings have been introduced by Representative Steadman. They are for Chapel Hill, \$100,000; Mt. Airy \$125,000, and Burlington \$125,000.

MOVEMENT FOR ROOSEVELT

A Well Directed Effort to Make Him the Republican Nominee

SUPPORTERS ARE ACTIVE

All Attempts to Disguise the Fact That a Concerted Movement is on Foot Looking to the Nomination of Colonel Roosevelt Have Been Abandoned—Effort to Have Delegates Go to the Convention Uninstructed and There Stampede Them For Roosevelt.

Washington, Dec. 11.—All attempts to disguise the fact that a concerted movement is on foot looking to the nomination of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt as the republican candidate for president in 1912 were apparently dropped when it became known that national committee members were being sounded as to their view of the feasibility of "forcing" the nomination of the former president.

On the eve of the assembling of the national republican committee in quadrennial session here tomorrow little was talked of today but the prospective attitude of Roosevelt. It became known that several prominent republicans on their way to Washington to attend conference, stopped over in New York and had long talks with Roosevelt.

Friends of Taft are meeting Roosevelt sentiment everywhere and asserting that the movement is a well directed one. They are urging Taft's nomination on the ground that to refuse to endorse his administration would be to discredit the party.

Escaping Gas Kills Two. Bartender and Paperhanger Found Dead at Atlantic City.

Atlantic City, Dec. 11.—Gas today caused the deaths of Frank B. Smith, 53 years old, a bartender, who had savings of \$500, and Edward A. Williams, a paperhanger, son of David Williams, engineer of a Reading flyer.

THE DEPARTMENT'S COTTON ESTIMATE

Washington, Dec. 11.—The department of agriculture estimates the cotton crop of 1911-12 to be 7,121,714,000 pounds, of 14,885,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight. Production by states: Virginia, 23,000; North Carolina, 935,000; South Carolina, 1,480,000; Georgia, 2,560,000; Florida, 73,000; Alabama, 1,606,000; Mississippi, 1,195,000; Louisiana, 395,000; Texas, 4,280,000; Arkansas, 915,000; Tennessee, 420,000; Missouri, 83,000; Oklahoma, 915,000; California, 11,000.