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REFORMS IN BILLS LADING

A. P. Thom Before Senate Committee On Interstate Commerce Important Matter

TO MAKE BILLS SAFE

Effort to Safeguard Bills and Make The Railroads Strictly Liable For Them—Mr. Thom Objects to Railroads Being Held Liable, Saying That To Do So Would Make Them Bankers as Well as Carriers—Are Co-Operating For Safety.

Washington, March 1.—General Counsel, A. P. Thom, of the Southern Railway, was one of a number of railroad attorneys who testified before the senate interstate commerce committee regarding proposed reforms in bill of lading methods designed to safeguard these documents and to hold the railroads to strict liability for them.

Thom testified for the railroads, calling attention particularly to cotton bills of lading and large forgeries that have taken place. Thom said the railroad's liability for lading bills made out between agents and shippers, with all opportunity for collusion between these two individuals, would place the railroads in the position of being not only carriers but bankers. He said the Southern Railway system had from fifteen hundred to two thousand agents of varying ability, intelligence and character. He stated that through the southeastern territory, east of the Mississippi and south of the Potomac the railroads were already co-operating and had established a central bureau at New York to which the roads forwarded copies of all lading bills. He said the railroads wanted to co-operate to the fullest extent but they should not be held liable.

POLES WIN THEIR FIGHT.

Bill For the Fourth Partition of Poland is Defeated.

St. Petersburg, March 1.—As the result of an energetic three-year fight by the Poles the essential feature of the Chelm bill, which has been described as the fourth partition of Poland, was defeated today in the Duma.

The creation of the new province of Chelm, comprising about one-third of the provinces of Lublin and Siedlce, in the Kingdom of Poland, was approved, but its submission to the ministry of the interior instead of to the governor general of Warsaw was rejected by a vote of 139 against 135. The Duma voted to leave the new Chelm province in the Kingdom of Poland.

WOMEN HAD TO SWIM.

Boy Tossed Thirty Feet to Shore From Sinking Boat.

Marietta, Ohio, March 1.—The Pittsburgh and Parkersburg packet H. K. Bedford sank in the Ohio river near here today after being severely pounded by the heavy ice filling the stream.

The two women passengers and a boy were saved, one of the crew tossing the boy from the boat to shore, only 30 feet away, but the women and all the crew were compelled to swim. The boat is a total loss.

TWO CONVENTIONS AT THE SAME TIME

Owing to the fact that the North Carolina Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows is to meet here May 15, it has been suggested that the republican state executive committee change the date of its meeting a few days before or after the date of the convention of the Odd Fellows.

SECRETARY WILSON SWORE ABOUT REPORT

Washington, March 1.—Thomas E. Will, a Florida everglades land salesman told the house committee on agricultural expenditures that the government printing office clerk showed him proof of the suppressed Wright everglades report in February 1910.

No consideration passed, Will said, for seeing the proofs. Later he and E. C. Howe, another Florida land salesman were shown an agricultural circular questioning the value of the everglades lands. Will told of calling on Secretary Wilson to urge the early publication of Wright's report.

"I told them fellows I wouldn't do a damn thing for them until they quit fighting among themselves," Will quoted the secretary as saying. Will said he understood the secretary to mean it was because of the political fights in Florida he was holding up the Wright report.

COMPROMISE NOT ACCEPTED

And the Trip-Hammer Case May Be Fought On and On

Greensboro, March 1.—In superior court yesterday afternoon J. K. Moorefield, through his attorneys, informed the court that their client declined to accept the court's suggestion of compromise in the "trip-hammer" case. The court had previously stated that it wanted the case ended; that the plaintiff could either accept \$1,000 damages in lieu of the \$2,500 given by the jury or accept \$3,000 from the defendant company for the home Moorefield alleges was damaged by the noise of the defendant's trip-hammer. Failing to accept either of these propositions, Judge Cook said he would put the verdict aside. The plaintiff has declined to accept although making a counter-proposition of \$3,500 for the Moorefield home. It the Standard Boiler and Machine Company does not agree to pay this price it is probable Judge Cook will set aside the verdict.

Two interesting cases have been continued to the next term of superior court. One is the case of David Settle, charged with killing a negro on his plantation in Guilford several months ago and the other is the embezzlement case against Frank Wineskie, of High Point, the defendant being charged with appropriating to his own use \$30,000 alleged to belong to the Standard Milled Company. In the case of Settle it was shown to the court that the defendant is still confined in a sanitarium in Maryland, where he went shortly after the homicide.

Announcement is made that the Armour Fertilizer Company, of Chicago, has determined to open a branch factory here, and D. B. Osborne, general sales manager of the company, has purchased twelve acres of ground on the C. F. & W. Y., near the Southern station on which a factory will be erected at an early date. It is estimated that approximately a quarter of a million dollars will be expended by the company here in constructing its plant, etc. The plant will have a capacity for the manufacturing of between 40,000 and 50,000 tons annually.

The will of the late Charles F. Cline, of Newton, whose death occurred here Sunday, has been filed with the clerk of Guilford for probate. The estate is valued at about \$6,000, and goes to the seven sisters of the deceased, with the exception of small special bequests to his nephew, Thomas H. Cline.

FIFTY-SEVEN LIVES LOST

Vessels in Collision and Sink With Great Loss of Life.

Victoria, B. C., March 1.—Fifty-seven lives were lost in a collision between the steamers Mori Maru and Richa Maru, details of which have just been brought here by the steamer Awa Maru from the Orient. The vessels foundered after a collision in the Genkai sea February tenth.

In Germany alcohol is now prepared from chicory root, which grows in various parts of that country.

LOOTING OF PEKING STORES

Disorder Continues But the Fires Have Been Extinguished

Peking, March 1.—The looting of stores and residences, proceeded throughout the day. There were several skirmishes between loyal troops and ruffians on the outskirts. Ten looters, captured, were executed by loyal soldiers. Incendiary fire, starting last night, are now extinguished. The loss is fifteen million dollars. The number of casualties among civilians and soldiers is heavy. The outbreak was a complete surprise to the government and foreign legations. Apprehension exists over a recurrence of the disorders.

More Troops Meeting.

Tientsin, March 1.—Chinese troops at Fong Tai, a village near Peking, mutinied this morning. There was much heavy firing in the native quarter. Dispatches declare the situation is serious. No reinforcements of foreign troops are required for the legation guard.

MUST TAKE OUT LICENSE.

Otherwise Insurance Solicitors Cannot Do Business.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 1.—State Insurance Commissioner Charles Johnson today sent to 298 insurance companies listed in Pennsylvania notice that every person engaged in soliciting insurance must take out a license and that each partner and person employed by a firm must also be licensed as well as the firm. This action is taken along lines of an opinion rendered by Deputy Attorney General J. E. R. Cunningham.

The commissioner also announced that the law prohibiting insurance brokers from writing life insurance would be enforced in every county and instructions to this end have been issued.

There are 536 fire insurance companies and 372 life, casualty, assessment and fraternal organizations listed in the state.

PI KAPPA ALPHA MEN MEET IN CITY

The Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity will hold its biennial convolve in this city today. A very attractive program has been arranged for this occasion. There was a short business meeting this morning, and another will be held this afternoon, followed by a banquet tonight at the Yborborough. The entire case will be turned over to the fraternity, the decorating of which has been entrusted to competent committee.

The color scheme will be garnet and old gold, the fraternity colors, and the tables will be decorated with numerous vases of lilies of the valley and standard gold tulips, the emblematic flowers.

The four active North Carolina chapters, at Davidson, Carolina, A. and M. and Trinity will have a full representation, besides a large number of alumni from all over the state. The governing body of the fraternity (supreme council) will be represented by the Hon. J. Gordon Hughes, of Union, S. C., grand princeps.

SAYS THE WORK WAS THOROUGHLY DONE

A well-known politician from the west, before leaving for home yesterday, declared that he did not know why the republicans were so anxious to clean out the officeholders. He said three congressmen, a large number of legislators and 20,000 voters had already been cleaned out, and he thought a little more work would accomplish the desired result, if that is the object of the Morehead-Butler organization. He also referred to the rumor that Maj. H. L. Grant is to retire in favor of a democrat and commented on the withdrawal of the Hon. Tom Settle from the department of Justice.

COAL MINERS ARE ON STRIKE

Nearly All of England's Collieries Are Idle Today

London, March 1.—Except a few small collieries in isolated districts, the country's coal mines are idle this morning. Official returns estimate the number of miners at 1,949,907. Railways in Wales have issued notices that their train service would be curtailed. The miners' federation resumed conference this morning. One of the members believed negotiations with the owners would be successfully terminated next week. Public opinion endorses the government's decision to pass a minimum wage bill.

FAVORS LAFOLLETTE

Senator Gronna Speaks In His Behalf In Baltimore

North Dakota Senator Paid Glowing Tribute to LaFollette and Said His State Would Endorse Him for President.

Baltimore, March 1.—Approaching that North Dakota would declare for Senator LaFollette for president, Senator A. J. Gronna, before the Augustan society here last night, paid a glowing tribute to the Washington senator. He sketched the growth of republican "progressivism" and gave much of the credit for the movement to Senator LaFollette, who, he said, was "a man of ability, honor and courage, of the type of Lincoln and Roosevelt."

Mr. Gronna declared the progressive movement was not "mere factionalism" nor that it was engineered by men seeking personal political aggrandizement.

"Most unbiased observers," he said, "now recognize that the movement is more than a struggle between party factions and their leaders, with political preference or party control as the prize to be won, and that it is a movement in defense of regular rights and in opposition to the control of government by the great moneyed interests of the nation."

Predicting that the "stand-pattens" in the republican party would make a vigorous fight against the adoption of the basic principles of progressivism, Mr. Gronna outlined them. They included, he said, the direct primary, the initiative, referendum and recall, the direct election of all United States senators, a corrupt practices act and an income tax. Extension of the recall to the judiciary was defended by the speaker.

"There is no reason why the judges should be exempted from the operation of this principle," he contended. "If the people have the right to say what laws shall be enacted, they have the right to say what those laws mean after having been enacted. Otherwise the right to make the laws becomes more or less ineffective, as laws can be nullified in their interpretation. This applies whether the laws in question are constitutions or statutes. If the people have the right to adopt a constitution they also have the right to have that constitution interpreted in accordance with their understanding of it."

Mr. Gronna charged that an organized attempt had been made throughout the country to picture LaFollette as "an irresponsible reactionary and impracticable visionary, whose efforts would be destructive and not instructive."

"An examination of LaFollette's record, however," he said, "of the enactment of which he has secured as governor and as senator, or whose enactment he has urged if not able to secure it, ought to convince any candid man that honest legitimate business has nothing to fear from LaFollette's election to the presidency."

LaFollette's record as governor of Wisconsin then was taken up by Mr. Gronna, who dwelt at considerable length on the former's policy with reference to the railroads of the state. This policy, he said, had resulted in a complete regulation of

BEGIN WORK ON BUILDING

Expect That Addition to Postoffice Will Soon Start

Secretary O'Leary, of the chamber of commerce, today talked with Mr. L. M. Dutton, the acting custodian of the Federal or postoffice building here, regarding the large addition to that structure, for which contracts have been made an appropriation of \$2,750,000. Mr. Dutton is having plans drawn in the rear of the present building, in order to ascertain the character of the foundation at three different depths, to show the character of the foundation.

The addition will increase the depth of the building without changing the present style of architecture. In the present building the ground level came from quarries in Rowan county. The work began in 1871. The cornerstone was laid July 4 that year and the building was completed and occupied in the autumn of 1878.

The new addition will be along the entire west side of the building and will be of the same length north and south, but the depth will be a little less than that of the present structure east and west. The building as it now stands has a frontage of 117 feet 8 inches on Fayetteville street, and 54 feet 8 inches on West Martin street.

The addition will be 46 feet 8 inches in depth along West Martin street and will, as already stated, extend all the way to the southern line of the present building. When the addition is completed there will be left a considerable bit of lawn between the two east sides of the building and South Salisbury street, in front of the Academy of Music.

It is expected that work will begin as early as April on this very important construction. In which Raleigh is so much interested. The contracts are all being let from Washington and not through Mr. Denton's office, and the construction will be in charge of an expert of the U. S. treasury department, which looks after all the public buildings of this character.

DEMOCRATS WILL CAUCUS ON SUGAR

Washington, March 1.—Democratic house members who will be given the secrets of the ways and means committee on the sugar tariff schedule in caucus late today, virtually boycotted the rooms of that committee for the advance information that would enable them to prepare for the caucus debate on the measure.

All appeals were turned down. Chairman Underwood refused to admit or deny anything about the schedule.

"Nothing will be given out to anybody before 5 o'clock," he said. Talk among the members was directed as to the report's conclusion, some claiming it would be free sugar while others looked for only 10 percent reduction. The caucus will develop a lively fight. Free-sugar enthusiasts claim they will win.

The board of aldermen will meet in regular monthly session tonight.

DIXON TO MANAGE ROOSEVELT CAMPAIGN

New York, March 1.—Theodore Roosevelt came from Oyster Bay to his editorial office for further conference with political leaders engaged in plans for his presidential nomination. The announcement of the selection of Senator Dixon as chairman of the executive committee probably will be followed by the announcement of the administrative committee with former Secretary of the Navy Newberry as chairman.

COTTON MILL MAKES INCREASE IN WAGES

Lawrence, Mass., March 1.—The paying of notices in the American Cotton and Worsted Mills, which employ five thousand five hundred hands, announcing a wage increase of at least five per cent, effective Monday, is regarded as an important step toward a speedy settlement of the great textile strike, involving twenty thousand persons. It is believed many other mills will make similar concessions. A scarcity of strikers doing picket duty was apparent this morning.

OVER MILLS ADVANCE.

Boston, March 1.—The American Woolen Company has notified all its 24 mills in New England and New York to advance wages five per cent. Thirty thousand operatives are affected.

Tailors on Strike.

Berlin, March 1.—Thirty-one cities, including Berlin, are affected by a strike of thirty thousand men's tailors. Increased wages demand was refused by the employers.

FOUR MEN ARE MADE HAPPY

Two Pardoned and Two Commuted By Governor Kitchin Today

Two pardons and two commutations were granted by Governor Kitchin today, the favored men being J. H. Eason, convicted in Johnston county in the fall of 1911, of seduction and sentenced to five years; W. P. Stinnett, convicted in Guilford county in June, 1911, of selling liquor and sentenced to twelve months on the roads; W. H. McEann, convicted in Surry county in April, 1909, of murder in the second degree and sentenced to six years in the penitentiary, sentence commuted to three years; and Ben Deever, convicted in Durham county of simple assault and sentenced to sixty days and a fine, sentence commuted to six weeks and payment of the court's fine.

In granting these conditional pardons and commutations, Governor Kitchin set forth his reasons. They follow:

J. H. Eason.—The trial judge, the solicitor, and the prosecutor, through her attorney, strongly urge me to pardon defendant in order that a settlement prepared by the judge may be carried out. I therefore pardon defendant on condition that he first comply with the terms imposed by the judge, which are that he pay to the prosecutor the sum of \$1,000 and pay into the office of the clerk of the superior court of Johnston county the sum of \$500 for the use and benefit of the child of the prosecutrix and pay the costs of the action.

W. P. Stinnett.—Prisoner has served about eight or twelve months term. I join the recommendation of the trial judge, the solicitor, and prominent citizens of the community, I pardon prisoner on condition that he remain law-abiding, sober, industrious and of good behavior, and on the further condition that he appear before the judge of the municipal court of Greensboro on the first Monday in each month for one year, and satisfy him that he has not violated the foregoing condition, and upon his failure to so satisfy the said judge, this pardon shall stand revoked without further proceeding, and it shall be the duty of the sheriff to arrest him and cause him to serve the remainder of his term.

W. H. McEann.—The trial judge and the jury recommend pardon. The solicitor who has heard the case disposes freely in the community. The sheriff and a great many other citizens recommend pardon. I therefore commute prisoner's sentence to such a term as will cause his discharge on April 1, 1912, on condition that he remain law-abiding and of good behavior.

Ben Hester.—Recorder sentenced prisoner to pay a fine of \$15.00. He appealed and the judge sentenced him to sixty days in jail and a fine of \$20.00. Upon recommendation of the recorder, the solicitor, the attorney who prosecuted, the county officers and other citizens, I commute sentence to six weeks in jail upon payment of the fine of \$20.00 and all costs.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS TODAY

Comrade John Pool, of Wake County, Celebrating Long Sojourn On Mundane Sphere

MEMBER FOURTEENTH

Was Also First Man to Enter Soldiers' Home After it Was Opened in 1892—Friends and Relatives Call During the Day—Got on Inside New Suit Clothes in Double-Quick Time—Dinner for Him This Afternoon—Except for Partial Blindness is Vigorous.

Comrade John Pool, a native of Wake county, is today celebrating his hundredth anniversary at the Soldiers' Home, and during the day many relatives and friends visited him. He was a member of Company E, fourteenth North Carolina regiment, and served gallantly in the war between the sections. Incidentally, Comrade Pool was the first veteran to enter the home when it was opened in 1892.

Mr. Pool was born near Morrisville 100 years ago today. None of his direct descendants are living, but he has many relatives in the county and state. Before noon today his sister's daughter, her daughter and the latter's daughter—three generations—visited Comrade Pool. This afternoon he will enjoy a dinner at the expense of some of his good friends in the city.

Captain Laneberry today presented Comrade Pool with a new suit of clothes and the centenarian got into them faster than the captain could have done. With the exception of partial blindness, Comrade Pool is a vigorous young man, and he has not lost interest in affairs generally.

BUYING MARYLAND TOBACCO

France Will Take Nearly All That State's Crop.

New York, March 1.—The French nation will smoke practically the entire tobacco crop of Maryland this year according to the report of two agents of the French government, who have been here several weeks contracting with growers and dealers. French experts, after experimenting with tobacco grown all over the United States, found the smokers of their country preferred that grown in Maryland and for several years they have purchased about half that state's crop.

WATSON OBJECTS TO SHUSTER

Wouldn't Attend Dinner Because Shuster Was One of Speakers.

New York, March 1.—It was explained today that William Watson, the English poet, refused to attend the annual dinner of the Economic Club of New York, last night, after he had been programed as the guest of honor, because the name of W. Morgan Shuster, appeared on the list of speakers. The poet declared he was too loyal to England to listen quietly to such an attack on her policy as he felt Mr. Shuster would make.

FIRE ROUTES HOTEL GUESTS.

New York, March 1.—Panicked-struck guests, clad in night attire, were sent scurrying down the fire escapes by flames in the Hotel Albany. Damage is small.

MEXICAN REPORTS SAID TO BE EXAGGERATED

Washington, March 1.—Chairman Sulzer of the house foreign affairs committee, after a talk with President Taft and the state department officials said he "opposed intervention in Mexico by United States troops. Sulzer, it is said, believes the reports of the Mexican situation are exaggerated. After the cabinet meeting today Secretary of War Stimson declared there had been improvement. State department advisers declared President Madero feels his government amply capable of handling the situation.