

GOVERNORS MEET AGAIN

Conservation Conference Calls Them Together.

IN WASHINGTON TODAY

Distinguished Men From All Parts of America Assemble to Put into Shape Report on the Country's National Wealth to Be Submitted to President Roosevelt Jan. 1.—Water, Lands, Forests and Minerals the Topics of Discussion—Retiring and Incoming Presidents to Speak.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Not since last May, when the governors of the states met here in response to the invitation of President Roosevelt to discuss the question of the conservation of the nation's resources, has the national capital been the scene of so notable a gathering as that which assembled here today.

The governors of the states are again here, either in person or by proxy, with a great throng of other distinguished men. The purpose of their



GIFFORD PINCHOT.

meeting is a joint "conservation conference" with the national conservation commission in order to get under way the most important part of the work of the conference—the report to the president on the national resources. The report is due Jan. 1.

Roosevelt and Taft to Speak.

Today's sessions began this morning with an informal meeting in the red room of the Willard hotel for the purpose of organizing. This afternoon there will be a great general meeting in the Belasco theater, at which President Roosevelt and President Elect Taft will be among the speakers who will address the members of the joint conservation conference, the rivers and harbors congress, the southern commercial congress and other organizations with allied objects whose sessions in Washington help to make up what has been called "conservation week."

After the opening session the joint conference will take up its business in earnest at the Hubbard Memorial hall. The plan is to take up one after another the main subjects which the national conservation commission under Chairman Gifford Pinchot has been studying—waters, lands, forests, minerals.

Meeting of Distinguished Men.

Distinguished men, including governors, senators, representatives, bankers, business men and others, will address the meetings. J. J. Hill, John Mitchell, Andrew Carnegie and a score of other representative men have accepted invitations to be present.

Since the conference seven months ago, when the president quickened the interest of the entire nation in one of its most perplexing problems, the national conservation commission has made an inventory of the natural resources of the country. This inventory will be presented to Chairman Pinchot, who in his report to the president Jan. 1 will make recommendations which both the work of the commission and the joint conference may suggest as vital in solving the conservation problem.

The inventory is completed now as far as present knowledge can go. The members of the commission declare and the country as a whole is convinced that the state of affairs is one that requires immediate and effective action.

Effective Action Needed.

The problem that the joint conference must help to solve is what form this action must take and in what direction it must be pushed to be most effective. This is a task which demands the shrewdest judgment which the national conservation commission can call to its aid. The commission declares that it realizes that it has reached the critical point in its work. All the information it has gathered in its months of study will result in nothing of permanent value unless it can be made the basis of a practical program of constructive activity.

Bank Hold-Ups Get \$15,000.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 8.—The East Side bank was held up by three men and robbed of \$15,000.

OIL TRUST'S PROFITS

One Company, Capitalized at \$1,000,000, Earned \$55,000,000 in Seven Years. New York, Dec. 8.—Figures showing some of the profits of the Standard Oil company became part of the court record in the federal suit to dissolve the Standard company, when John D. Archbold resumed the stand for a brief examination, and President Henry Tilford, of the Standard Oil Company of California, testified at some length as a witness for the defense. The government inquisitor, on figures submitted, showed that the Continental Oil company, a Standard subsidiary in the middle west, made profits of 115 per cent on its capitalization of \$300,000 and that the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, on a capitalization of \$1,000,000, earned about \$55,000,000 between 1899 and 1906.

Through Mr. Tilford the counsel for the government sought to bring out that in California and other states of the far west the Standard had made contracts with its competitors whereby the Standard obtained all the crude oil supply and thereby enjoyed the refining held to itself. Mr. Tilford said he had little knowledge of these contracts. Referring to oil trade rate cutting in Colorado and in the far west, Mr. Tilford said that the Standard never cut prices to undersell its competitors, but simply lowered rates to meet the reductions of its rivals.

KING IN POOR HEALTH

British Ruler Going to Seaside Resort to Recuperate.

London, Dec. 8.—King Edward has had difficulty in shaking off the cold and touch of rheumatism from which he has been suffering for some time. He was obliged to remain in the house at Sandringham all last week, and his projected visit to Lord and Lady Chester this week has been abandoned. His majesty intends going on to a resort on the south coast, where the weather is milder, to recuperate.

CONGRESS IN SHORT SESSION

Listens to President's Message and Adjourns.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Following the usual procedure in such cases, the two houses of congress adjourned today after listening to the reading of the message from the president.

The reading was followed with interest by most of the senators and representatives, there being a general feeling that this mark of attention was due to the last annual message sent to congress by President Roosevelt.

The short session of congress is centered in the changes in the senate committees due to the death of Senator Allison, who was chairman of the committee on appropriations, the most important on the list with the possible exception of the finance committee. There will be few changes of importance in the house of representatives.

Senator Hale, of Maine, is the ranking member of the senate appropriations committee. During the short session, however, Mr. Hale may retain his place as chairman of the naval committee and at the same time be acting chairman of the appropriations committee. This would make him easily one of the two most influential men in the senate, the other being Senator Aldrich, of Rhode Island, chairman of the committee on finance.

TAFT AT RED CROSS MEET

He is President of Society, Which Meets in Washington Today.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The annual meeting of the National Red Cross society, held here today, was attended by President Elect William H. Taft, president of the society. Routine business only will be transacted at the meetings of the society. It is expected that the present officers will be re-elected.

Judge Taft's attendance at the meeting, despite his other pressing engagements, was due largely to the efforts of Miss Mabel T. Boardman, of Washington, member of the executive committee of the society, who is very active in its work. Judge Taft has been greatly interested in the society since its reorganization in 1905, when he was elected president.

HIS MIND A BLANK

Well-Dressed Man, With \$600 in His Pocket, Picked Up in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Dec. 8.—A well-dressed man, who apparently stepped from the St. Louis limited express train on the Pennsylvania railroad at North Philadelphia station, is a patient in an up-town hospital, suffering from a form of aphasia. The man's mind is blank so far as any knowledge of himself is concerned, and the authorities have been unable to learn anything about him. He was found in a bewildered state at the railway station, and the only clue to his identity is in the form of a card found in his suit case on which is the name W. O. Mackey and the address Marlboro, Ulster county, New York. The man declares he does not know Mackey. His black suit and overcoat are of excellent quality, and he is unquestionably a man of good circumstances. In his pocket was found \$500.

PRIESTS AND NUNS LOSERS

Concern That Financed Catholic Buildings Collapsed.

A \$4,500,000 FAILURE

Receiver Takes Charge of the Fidelity Funding Company and Says There Are Virtually No Assets—Declares Books Are Missing—Churches, Seminaries and Colleges Are Involved.

New York, Dec. 8.—That the affairs of the Fidelity Funding company, which was organized under the laws of this state in 1899 to finance the building operations of Catholic churches and allied institutions, are in an exceedingly tangled condition is asserted by the receiver, Thomas F. Gilroy, Jr.

P. J. Kieran, recently president of the company, could not be found when sought for a statement in connection with the company's affairs, and was said to be out of the city.

Gilroy said that the company's liabilities will aggregate not less than \$4,500,000, with virtually no assets. Its creditors include at least fifty churches, seminaries, colleges and many priests and nuns. These are located all over the country.

Chief among the company's creditors is St. Mary's academy, of Nauvoo, Ill., which is involved for at least \$500,000.

"I cannot give even an approximate idea of the company's affairs at this time," said Receiver Gilroy, "as some of the most important books and papers are missing. I understand that Mr. Kieran claimed them as his personal property. His lawyer, Bainbridge Colby, has promised to produce these books and papers."

As explained by the receivers, most of the Fidelity Funding company's loans were to run for twenty years. The company also issued life insurance against the lives of priests and nuns. A rate of interest ranging from 8 to 9 per cent was charged for both loan and insurance.

The Fidelity Funding company, it seems, also sold its bonds to representatives of the Catholic church. These are secured by mortgages on property, but how much may be recovered from this source it is as yet impossible to say.

Besides the Fidelity Funding company, Kieran conducted a number of subsidiary companies. These were the Columbia Construction company, Federal Construction company, McBride Studios company and the Western Illinois and Iowa Railroad company.

All these, Receiver Gilroy declares, were financed by funds from the Fidelity Funding company, though in no way allied, but are not asserted to be involved in the Fidelity Funding company's troubles.

The authorized capital of the Fidelity Funding company was \$5,000,000 and \$2,500,000 surplus. Of this amount not more than about \$100,000 was actually paid in, the receiver says, the buyers of the stock being for the most part priests and nuns.

Former Secretary of the Treasury Leslie M. Shaw is down on the company's books as having made a loan of \$60,000 to Kieran. This is secured. Mr. Shaw also purchased \$10,000 of the company's stock, the books show.

The present head of the company is Duncan H. Sill, and among its former directors were Father Lanigan, vicar general of the Buffalo diocese, and Father Fletcher, pastor of the Baltimore Cathedral.

HURT IN HOTEL FIRE

Woman Jumps From Third Story Window of Atlantic City Hostelry.

Atlantic City, N. J., Dec. 8.—Half a hundred guests in the Laschelle hotel, in South Carolina avenue, had a remarkable narrow escape from death when the house was destroyed by fire. With one exception all escaped without serious injury, but they saved none of their clothing or personal effects.

Mrs. Elizabeth Graham, an aged woman, whose home is in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., was forced to jump from a high window. Both her legs were broken and she sustained other injuries. She died several hours later.

The house was wrecked and it was only by the greatest effort that the firemen prevented the blaze extending to adjoining property.

Calmly Tells of Approaching Death.

Toledo, O., Dec. 8.—"I won't be with you much longer. The doctors tell me that I may live a month, but not longer than six months." In a voice that showed no more emotion than he might exhibit in one of his regular sermons, Rev. John P. McCloskey, assistant rector of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, told his congregation that his death is near. He informed his listeners that he was suffering with cancer of the esophagus, an incurable disease, and that his physicians had told him an operation would be useless.

Shot Boy For Snowballing Him.

Schenectady, N. Y., Dec. 8.—Goaded to desperation by the persecutions of boys who were snowballing him, Adolph Schultz, aged forty years, shot and mortally wounded Mark Killgallen, aged seventeen, one of his alleged tormentors. The boy died two hours later. Schultz was arrested.

MUST BE PUT TO DEATH

Should Physician Revive Prisoner He Will Be Electrocuted Again.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 8.—Prosecutor William J. Crossley, speaking of the proposed test by County Physician Scannell to see if life can be restored after electrocution, which test is to be made in the case of John Mantasanna, who is to go to the electric chair the week of Dec. 21, said that if the test should result in restoring Mantasanna to life the prisoner would have to be electrocuted over again. This, he said, would be necessary in order to carry out the sentence of the law that the prisoner be "put to death."

County Physician Scannell, when told of the prosecutor's statement and asked if it would have any effect on the proposed test, said it would not. The test, he said, would be made. The county physician, however, said he had not the slightest notion that the test will result in restoring life. He said the test was merely going to be made in order to satisfy public sentiment because of the contention that had been made that electrocution does not cause death. Dr. Scannell said that personally he was satisfied that the test would prove that the electrocuted man was dead.

GETS WILFLEY'S PLACE

Rufus Thayer Made Judge of United States Court at Shanghai.

Washington, Dec. 8.—President Roosevelt has appointed Rufus Thayer, of the District of Columbia, as Judge of the United States court at Shanghai, China, succeeding Judge Lebbius I. Wilfley, resigned. Judge Wilfley was for a long time under serious charges brought by Americans in Shanghai, but was exonerated. His resignation is understood to be voluntary.

WIRELESS WORKS UNDERGROUND

Inventor Telegraphs by Means of Tubes Sunk in Ground.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Dec. 8.—Father Joseph Murgas, of this city, who has patented an aerial wireless telegraph system, the practical usefulness of which he has demonstrated, has decided to establish a station at Binghamton, N. Y., and also, as soon as patents for his new underground wireless system are received, to have an underground wireless station at Binghamton, to fully develop his sending and receiving apparatus.

Rev. John Porubsky, pastor of the Binghamton Slovak Catholic church, will have charge of the station there.

Father Murgas has conducted underground wireless experiments at a distance of half a mile. At each of the half-mile stations he has sunk to a depth of thirty feet an aluminum tube coated with silyer. This is incased in another tube containing oil. He says he can send underground wireless messages from New York to San Francisco with only three stations.

HELD FOR READ MURDER

Bridgeton Mayor Commits Three Men to Court on Homicide Charge.

Bridgeton, N. J., Dec. 8.—A hearing was given Walter Zeller, Cline Wheeler and Herbert Grigg by Mayor George Hampton on the charge of murdering William Read, a retired contractor, near Vineland on the evening of Nov. 13. Detective Frank Lore was the only witness, and the trio was recommitted to jail to await the action of the December term of court.

Dying of Hiccoughs.

Chester, Pa., Dec. 8.—George Sampson, aged forty-five years, of 1017 West Third street, this city, is hiccoughing himself to death. Six days ago Sampson was taken ill with erysipelas in his right arm, and about the same time was seized with a hiccoughing attack. The hiccoughs occur at intervals of a few minutes, and the man is wasting away. He is unable to eat; his heart action keeps growing weaker and the pain he suffers is excruciating.

Herman Billik Gets Prieve.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 8.—Herman Billik, sentenced to be hanged Dec. 11 for the murder of Mary Vrzal, was granted a reprieve until Jan. 29 by Acting Governor Sherman.

PRODUCE QUOTATIONS.

The Latest Closing Prices in the Principal Markets.

PHILADELPHIA — FLOUR firm; winter extras, new, \$3.75@3.90; Pennsylvania roller, clear, \$4@4.25; city mill, fancy, \$5.85@6. RYE FLOUR quiet; per barrel, \$4.15@4.25. WHEAT steady; No. 2 red, western, \$1.06@1.07; CORN quiet; No. 2 yellow, local, 57½¢. OATS firm; No. 2 white, clipped, 56¢; lower grades, 54¢. HAY steady; timothy, large bales, \$14.50. POULTRY: Live steady; hens, 11½@12½¢; old roosters, 8½¢. Dressed steady; choice fowls, 14¢; old roosters, 9½¢. BUTTER steady; extra creamery, 35¢. EGGS firm; selected, 40@42¢; nearby, 36¢; western, 36¢. POTATOES steady; per bushel, 83@85¢. Sweet Potatoes, per basket, 40@50¢.

BALTIMORE—WHEAT firm; No. 2 spot, \$1.05@1.09; steamer No. 2 spot, \$1.03@1.04; southern, \$1.05@1.06. CORN steady; contract mixed spot, 67½@67¾¢; steamer mixed, 64¢@64½¢; southern, 62½@67¾¢; year, 67½@67¾¢. OATS firm; white, No. 2, 55½¢; No. 3, 54½¢; No. 4, 52½¢@53½¢; mixed, No. 2, 53½@54¢; No. 3, 52½@53¢. BUTTER firm; creamery separator extras, 31@31½¢; prints, 32@33¢; held, 23@24¢. Maryland and Pennsylvania dairy prints, 17@18¢. EGGS firm; Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, 31¢; West Virginia, 31¢; southern, 30¢ per dozen.

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INDICTMENTS ARE 123.

Returned by Grand Jury Investigating Raids of Night Riders of Reelfoot Lake.

Union City, Tenn., Dec. 5.—Twenty-four additional indictments were returned today by the grand jury investigating the recent raids of the night riders of Reelfoot Lake, bringing the total number of indictments so far returned to 123. Other than the majority of the indictments charge capital offenses the strictest secrecy is maintained as to their contents.

The decision of Judge Matthews in ordering the release, under bond, the men in the Nashville jail, will affect but little the plans of the prosecution, as when the men are returned to Union City they will be immediately re-arrested on capias, which Judge Matthews declared not properly served, and on other indictments.

The efforts to secure their release will be renewed in the circuit court here.

GRIST MILL FOR CLAYTON.

Bring your corn to Clayton and have it ground at my new mill near the depot and get good meal.

W. E. STALLINGS.

Sensitive.

"I hear you is out of a job, Willie?" "Yes, I may be little too sensitive, but when the boss sez, 'Git to blazes out of here before I kick you out,' then I got mad and resigned my position."

J. P. Morgan's \$5,000 Bible.

London, Dec. 8.—It is learned that J. P. Morgan was the purchaser of the King Charles I copy of the Cambridge Bible, which was sold on Thursday last at the dispersal sale of the library of Lord Amherst, of Hackney. The price paid was \$5,000.

DOG STRAYED.

From me Sunday December 6, a dark brown bird dog (setter) about a year old. Named Zeb. Any information leading to his recovery will be rewarded.

W. J. ALFORD.

Smithfield, N. C., R. F. D. No. 1.

Dr. W. H. Wakefield, of Charlotte, will be in Smithfield at the Hotel on Wednesday, Dec. 16th, one day only. (At Benson on Tuesday, Dec. 15th.) His practice is limited to diseases of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat and Fitting Glasses.