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Late News In Brief

MINOR MATTERS OF INTEREST

Following the burning of the court house and all records at Bryson City, N. C., a curfew ordinance for negroes was passed.

The second day of the Thaw trial closed with three sworn and four provisional jurors in the box.

Five Pullmans of a special train on the Southern railway went through a trestle near Hiram, Ga., and many were hurt.

Six sworn jurors were in the box at the conclusion of the day's session of the Thaw trial.

Receivers were appointed for the Chicago Great Western Railroad.

Claus A. Spreckles demanded publicity in American Sugar Refining affairs.

The Gould interests regained control of the Merchants National Bank from F. Augustus Heinze.

Governor Willson, of Kentucky, sent the General Assembly a message on the "night riders" and two counties asked for Gatling guns.

Green and Gaynor, convicted of frauds on harbor contracts, begins four years' terms in the Atlanta Federal prison.

John Mulholland, a money lender, who claimed to have \$3,000,000 assets, failed in Danville, Ill.

Oklahoma came out for Taft, and New Hampshire labor federation leaders decided to fight him.

Immigration is at the lowest ebb for years.

Secretary Metcalf issued the order assigning Surgeon Stokes to command of the Relief.

Richard A. Ballinger resigned as commissioner of the General Land office, to be succeeded by Frederick Dennett.

Senator Aldrich introduced the Emergency Currency bill that is favored by the Republican leaders.

Representative Gill, of Maryland, introduced a resolution in the House calling for all the documents in the Brownson-Rixey controversy.

A bill was introduced in the House to reorganize the Navy Department.

Mr. Willett, of New York, severely attacked President Roosevelt in the House.

The Senate adjourned until Thursday.

The battleship fleet was sighted off Pernambuco, Brazil.

Canada decided all immigrants must come to the Dominion from their former homes, thus shutting off Japs from Hawaii.

The Bank of Yucatan was robbed of \$740,900, and 12 prominent persons are accused.

Augustus B. Stevens, baggagemaster on the Norfolk and Southern railway, was assassinated on his train near Suffolk, Va.

The report that the Wise County Bank at Wise, Va., had closed its doors is unfounded.

Sailors and marines from the Norfolk Navy Yard celebrated Christmas liberty in a riotous fashion.

Governor Swanson pardoned John Jackson, a life prisoner who was convicted of murder and sentenced to be hanged in 1897.

John Covington was lodged in jail at Grafton, W. Va., charged with assaulting Miss Nellie Maddix.

Fred J. Thompson, of Roanoke, has sued Drs. Caneday and Stone for \$10,000 damages, because they adjudged him insane.

A revolt has broken out in Somaliland and Abyssinians have killed a number of Italians.

Republican senators are said to be foreing a combination to defeat Taft for the nomination for President.

President Roosevelt held the "diplomatic reception" at the White House Saturday night.

Philadelphia street car men won demands which threatened a strike.

The Government report shows that 9,955,427 bales of cotton were ginned to January 1, a great decrease from last year's crop.

Senator Hale introduced a bill providing for a reorganization of the Navy Department and limiting the number of Naval Academy graduates appointed officers.

In the House the members held a lottery drawing for rooms in the new office building.

Senator Raynor declared that Democrats will aid in securing conservative currency.

Alexander B. Butt, cashier of the defunct People's Bank of Portsmouth, was arrested on three additional charges, and is now out on bail, aggregating \$25,000.

The schooner wrecked on Diamond Shoals, off Hatteras, with the loss of five men, was the Leonora, bound from Round Point, Maine, to Charleston, S. C.

J. H. Sheppard, of Millville, N. J., committed suicide because his family was too big.

Miss Elizabeth Frances Stewart, a nurse at the Soldiers' Home Hospital at Hampton, died from a big dose of bichloride of mercury which she swallowed, supposing it to be Epsom salts.

Mayor Schmitz, of San Francisco, won his case in the Appeal Court, and with Reuf, may be put on bail until new charges come to trial.

Capt. Oberlin Carter lost his suit against the Government for the \$400,000 portion of the money for which he served a term for embezzling.

The Brownson-Stokes Matter.

Washington, Special.—The House is going to find out all about the Brownson-Rixey-Stokes affair and adopted a resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Navy for all letters reports and orders in connection with the assignment of Surgeon Stokes to the command of hospital ship Relief. The House also asks for correspondence in connection with the resignation of Brownson.

Artillery Sergeant Shot and Killed. Pensacola, Fla., Special.—Sergeant Oscar Gatting, of the Twentieth Company, Coast artillery, was shot and killed at Fort Barnabas by James Hart, a negro. Hart made his escape but was later captured. According to reports from the fort, which is nine miles distant, the negro had a grudge against the sergeant. Sergeant Gatting had been stationed at the fort for seven years and came here from Atlanta, where he has relatives.

Nebraska Pioneers Meet.

Lincoln, Neb., Special.—Many aged citizens who came to Nebraska when it was a wild country inhabited mainly by Indians, are in attendance at the annual sessions of the Territorial Pioneers' Association and the Nebraska State Historical Association. The meetings are being held in the new Temple building and the pioneers will be elaborately entertained during their stay in the city. The final session of the convention will be held Tuesday.

Negroes Not Allowed to Vote in Prohibition Election.

Shreveport, La., Special.—The negroes of Shreveport and Caddo parish were notified by both the prohibitionists and anti-prohibitionists that they will not be allowed to vote in the election next Tuesday on the liquor question. Recently several thousand negroes adopted a resolution pledging to support prohibition.

Colonel Andrews President of Tallulah Falls Railway.

Raleigh, N. C., Special.—Corporation Commissioner Rogers, who arrived from his home reports that A. B. Andrews of the Southern Railway is made president of the Tallulah Falls Railway, from Cornelia, Ga., to Franklin, this State. This was Geo. L. Preston's road. It will be operated by the Southern Railway.

First Cabinet Dinner.

Washington, Special.—President and Mrs. Roosevelt will be the guests of honor at a banquet to be given Tuesday night by Secretary of State and Mrs. Elihu Root to which many other cabinet members, diplomats and statesmen have been invited. This will be the first cabinet dinner of the President, and will be followed by similar affairs given by other cabinet members in their order of precedence.

News of the Day.

Japanese in Vancouver seriously hurt a fireman who fell against a store window.

Republican leaders are ready to unite to secure currency legislation, fearing that the money stringency may defeat their candidate for President.

The Russian police say they have discovered a plot to assassinate the Empress Dowager.

DOESN'T TAKE WARNING.

"Does your son profit by your example? Does he imitate your successes and avoid your mistakes?" "Naw. He wants to get married."—Cleveland Leader.

SCORES DIE IN FIRE

Awful Ending of an Entertainment Given By Children

STAMPEDE IN AN OPERA HOUSE

Exploding Tank Causes Stampede and Panic in Pennsylvania Opera House—Actors in Their Anxiety to Make Themselves Heard Overturn Footlights Setting Fire to Building.

Boyetown, Pa., Special.—Between 50 and 75 persons were burned to death Monday night in a fire which completely destroyed Rhod's Opera House in this place.

The opera house was crowded with members of St. John's Lutheran Sunday school, who were attending a benefit given for that church. While the show was in progress, a tank exploded. The actors endeavored to quiet the audience but in their anxiety to make themselves heard and to avoid the awful stampede of the women and children, the coal oil lamps which were used as the footlights were overturned, setting the place on fire. The flames, fed by the oil, shot almost to the ceiling and there was a wild rush of the seven hundred persons to escape from the burning building. Scores of women and children were trampled upon and several who escaped being burned to death, died after being dragged from the opera house.

In many cases, it is said, entire families have been wiped out. The scene which followed the explosion is indescribable. Scores of persons who were in the balcony at the time the explosion occurred jumped from the windows and sustained fractured limbs and skulls.

To add to the terrible disaster, the fire apparatus became disabled and the structure was left entirely to the mercy of the seething flames. It is almost certain not a vestige of the bodies of the unfortunates who were overcome by the smoke and perished, will ever be found. Assistance was asked from Pottstown but before the fire apparatus from that city reached this place the entire centre of the structure was a roaring furnace.

Had the women and children heeded the warning of the cooler heads in the audience the horrible loss of life might have been avoided, but there was the usual panic and stampede which invariably follows at such a catastrophe. The flames spread rapidly and communicated to the other parts of the theatre. Men, women and children rushed for the many exits, and the weaker sex and the children were trampled and maimed in the mad rush to gain the street.

Assistance was at once asked of both Reading and Pottstown, and special trains carrying nurses and doctors were rushed to the scene of the disaster.

Every home within a radius of a dozen blocks of the opera house was made a temporary hospital, where the wounded were rushed by carriages and other means of conveyance.

Boyetown is a borough with a population of about 2,500 and is located about midway between Pottstown and Reading.

The night was one of wailing and anguish. The shrieks of mothers who had rushed to the scene as soon as they learned of the fire was pitiful. As the night wore on, the crowds surrounding the building grew to such proportions that it was almost impossible for the police force which had been augmented by a score of men from Pottstown and Reading, to keep the people back. One woman who said she had lost her entire family in the theater was with difficulty restrained from throwing herself into the flames.

At 1 o'clock a special train from Reading, bearing physicians and nurses, reached here, but there was little for them to do as the injured who had dashed themselves to the pavement had been cared for. A few minutes after midnight the rear wall of the theater collapsed. The flames broke out anew and those who had hoped to be able to find the remains of some of their loved ones, turned in despair from the scene.

It is estimated that at least 75 persons were injured by being trampled upon either on the stairway or by jumping from the windows.

FLEET REACHES RIO

American Fleet Joyously Received at Southern Port

BRASILIAN'S WELCOME HEARTY

Warships of the South American Republic, in Gala Attire, Meet the Sixteen American Battleships at the Entrance to the Harbor and Escorts Them to Safe Anchorage.

Rio Janeiro, By Cable.—The American fleet of sixteen battleships entered the port of Rio Janeiro at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, after a passage from Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, more than 3,000 miles, unmarred by serious accident, replete with interesting incidents and ending with a royal welcome from the thousands that had gathered to greet the visitors.

The fleet weighed anchor at 4 o'clock on the afternoon of December 24th at Port-of-Spain and exactly at 4 o'clock Sunday the vessels were swinging at the anchors in this beautiful harbor. All of the battleships are here, but the supply ships, Culgoa and Glacier, are still at sea, not having been able to keep along with the others. The fleet has now covered about 4,600 miles, about one-third the distance of the voyage to San Francisco.

Crowds Welcome Ships. Early in the morning the crowds began to gather in the streets of Rio Janeiro, and long before the signal flags were hoisted announcing the approach of the American ships of war thousands of curious spectators had taken up the points of vantage on public buildings and the elevated quays. When the fleet steamed into the harbor, under the splendid mountains that frame the bay, beautiful in the tropical sun, it was a spectacle incomparable to the eye.

Word that the fleet had passed Cape Frio, about 45 miles out, was received at 8:30 o'clock and immediately scores of tug and other small craft crowded with spectators set out to meet the visitors and accompany them to the anchorage. Outlined against the horizon the great battleships, stretched out in one long line, came slowly through the passage into the bay. The Connecticut, Rear Admiral Evans' flagship, was in the lead with the Brazilian cruisers, dressed in gala attire on either side. Passing the fortresses, the Connecticut fired a salute of 21 guns, which was responded to by the Brazilian warships, the German cruiser Bremen and the shore guns. The yard and fighting tops were manned and cheers upon cheers were given for the splendid passage of the flagship and her sister ships.

Pearl Wight Confirms Report.

New Orleans, Special.—Pearl Wight confirmed the report that he had declined the position of commissioner of internal revenue, which was offered to him several months ago by President Roosevelt. Wight announced at that time that he would accept the position if he could arrange his business affairs in this city. He said that the financial stringency which arose made it necessary to give his entire time to his interests in Louisiana.

Wife Murderer Sent to Penitentiary.

Staunton, Va., Special.—John F. Via, charged with the murder of his wife, Cora, at Craigville, October 16, last, was found guilty and sentenced to 8 years in the penitentiary. Via, it is charged, had been drinking when he committed the crime. He claimed his wife killed herself. He is 49 years old and his wife was 23.

Operations of Subway Suspended.

New York, Special.—Orders were given by Deputy Commissioner of Police Bugher that in view of the great danger of falling walls of the Parker Building that the operation of the subway should be suspended. An order was issued by officials of the company that until further notice no subway trains would be operated between 14th street and Grand Central station. It is feared by the police officials that should these big walls crumble the mass of brick and stone would plunge through the street into the subway below.

Montgomery Retires Certificates.

Montgomery, Ala., Special.—President Baldwin, of the Montgomery clearing house association, issued an order for the complete retirement of the clearing house certificates which have been used in Montgomery and vicinity for the past two months. These certificates will be retired as rapidly as presented at the different banks here Monday morning.

FINANCIAL BAROMETER

READS "NORMAL"

Optimistic Outlook Foreshadowed by The Atlanta Constitution.

The Atlanta Constitution of January 12 says:

For the first time in several weeks the financial barometer of the country reads— "NORMAL." The weekly statement of the New York banks, issued yesterday, shows \$17,000,000 increase in the reserve fund, not only restoring the latter to its legal basis, but exceeding the reserve requirement by over \$6,000,000, whereas a week ago the reserve deficit was \$10,000,000.

The significance of this is unmistakable.

It means that New York city, the clearing house of the nation, finds that the financial deadlock, which had no rational excuse for existence, has been broken and that henceforth currency vitally needed in everyday business and development will be increasingly available.

Testimony that is absolutely unimpeachable comes from two sources to confirm this reasoning.

The two great commercial agencies—Bradstreet's and Dun's—in their weekly reviews report substantial progress toward normal conditions. Demands are increasing in every line of business. Money is more easily obtainable. Real estate and other values are appreciating with the passage of every day.

There is no discounting the hopeful effect of these three factors. They bear their own credentials.

They indicate the near presence of the day when we may speak of the financial stringency in the past tense. They bear witness that the fundamental prosperity, upon which The Constitution has always insisted, has come to the permanent relief of the country.

Within a few days this healthful condition will be reflected in every line of business. Credit is already easing; collections are steadily improving; trade is resuming its accustomed briskness.

The horizon is perceptibly brightening. From the scare that is vanishing these lessons stand out

GET TO WORK! GUARD AGAINST THE MISTAKES OF THE FUTURE BY THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PAST. ALL'S WELL WITH THE PROSPERITY OF THE NATION.

Bricklayers' Union Meets.

Detroit, Mich., Special.—Bricklayers from all over this country and from Canada are in Detroit Monday for the convention of the international union of the trade. The meeting will probably last three weeks, as a convention of the union has not been held for two years and there are many matters of great importance before the body for settlement. The gathering is expected to mark the inauguration of a renewed and vigorous opposition to the open shop idea. National officers will be elected for the coming two years before the convention adjourns.

Serious Fire in Kansas City.

Kansas City, Special.—Fire broke out at the union annex and raged for several hours, causing a heavy loss before it could be controlled. The government mail transfer station and offices and several express companies were located in the building and it is believed that the contents are comparatively destroyed.

Airship Contest.

Paris, By Cable.—Henry Farman won the Deutsch Ardebeacon prize of fifteen thousand francs for an aeroplane which would perform certain required evolutions. In the first trial he completed a circular kilometre at an average flight, the 20-foot aeroplane turning with ease of an automobile and coming back to the exact starting place. He then rose again, took a great swoop and landed in the aeroplane's shed. The time was 88 seconds. M. Voisin, the builder of the airship, fainted when assured that the prize had been won.

SEC. TAFT ON LABOR

Discusses Problems Connected With Our Industrial Life

RIGHTS OF LABOR AND CAPITAL

Secretary of War William H. Taft Faces Audience at People's Institute and Sets Forth His Stand on Relative Rights of Capital and Labor—Cooper Union Crowded to Its Capacity and Police Are Called to Clear the Walks in Front of the Building.

New York, Special.—For the first time since he became a recognized candidate for the Republican presidential nomination Secretary of War William H. Taft Friday night faced a New York audience, set forth in detail his stand on the pertinent question of the relative interests and rights of labor and capital, and in turn submitted to a rapid fire attack from the audience, which quizzed him keenly and in a somewhat controversial spirit, according to the practice of the People's Institute, whose guest he was. The Secretary proved equally effective in attack and defense.

Not less than 2,000 persons, its capacity, had crowded into Cooper Union, when police reserves were summoned to clear the walks in front of the building, where a thousand or more had congregated.

As the Secretary of War made his way through the throng a shout of "Three cheers for the next President," was the signal for a noisy ovation that continued until Mr. Taft bowed his acknowledgement from the platform.

People's Institute audiences usually bring together intellectual leaders in all walks of life and Friday night's gathering was a typical one. At least a third of the auditors was women. When Charles Sprague Smith, who presided, suggested that three cheers be given for the speaker, the demonstration continued for three or four minutes. After referring in most complimentary terms to his record as a Cabinet officer and the good influence exerted by his trip abroad, Mr. Smith said that he was proud to introduce the "Secretary of the Navy."

Mr. Smith's Mistake.

When the laughter, begun by the Secretary himself and joined in by the audience, had died away, Mr. Taft said playfully that he wished it understood that he was the head of what he, at least, considered the more important department.

He was reminded, he added, of a story told by the President. Mr. Roosevelt once attended a public meeting in the West, at which the chairman spoke most flatteringly of the speaker he presented. This chairman said: "I take pleasure in introducing to you a man known from California to Maine; from Canada to Mexico, who has known what it is to be on the firing line—who has smelled gunpowder—the Hon. Mr.—" Here the chairman hesitated, embarrassed for a moment, then turning to the guest of the evening asked: "What is your name, please?"

In his prepared address the Secretary pointed out the dependence one upon the other of capital and labor. He declared that great aggregations of wealth, properly employed widened the field of labor and were to be welcomed, while wealth improperly used was to be condemned. He advocated unionism in so far as sympathy and the resultant co-operation made for the common good.

Unfortunate Occurrence.

Johnston, Special.—Mr. J. E. Clark, who lives a few miles from Johnston, lost his eye a few days ago in a peculiar manner. He was mounting his mule to go home when the animal jumped and the buckle on the bridle struck Mr. Clark in the eye, cutting the ball so badly that it had to be taken out at once.

Parker on the Panic.

Kingston, N. Y., Special.—Before an assemblage of 60 associates of his home county of Ulster, former Chief Judge Alton B. Parker, of the Court of Appeals, Democratic candidate for the presidency in 1904, spoke of the causes of the recent "credit panic" and of what he considered the dangers of putting "unintended idealism" in charge of the nation's affairs. The occasion was a dinner given by four score or more Ulster county Democrats, at which Judge Parker was the guest of honor.